

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND  
China Overland Trade Report.

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## BIRTHS.

On 17th December, at Shanghai, the wife of F. M. BROOKS, of a son.  
On 17th December, at Ningpo, the wife of the Rev. HARRISON K. WRIGHT, of a son.  
On 21st December, at Shanghai, the wife of THOMAS SHIRDAN, Imperial Maritime Customs, of a daughter.  
On 21st December, at Shanghai, the wife of ALEXANDER REID WILSON, of a daughter.  
On 22nd December, at Shanghai, the wife of C. P. NEWTON, of a son.  
On 26th December, at Hongkong, the wife of A. BRYSON, of a son.

## MARRIAGE.

On 25th December, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. R. F. Johnston, T. BULOW VON RAVENS, son of CARL JOHAN BARON VON RAVENS, to ANNA ALEXANDRA FRICK, eldest daughter of JOHAN FERDINAND FRICK, Civil Engineer, Bergen, Norway.

## DEATHS.

On 18th December, at Ningpo, HARPER SWIFT WRIGHT, infant son of the Rev. and Mrs. HARRISON K. WRIGHT, aged one day.  
On 20th December, at Shanghai, T. W. BLANPIED, aged 36 years.  
On 21st December, at Shanghai, ELLA, the beloved wife of ERNEST MELLOWS, aged 26 years.  
On 26th December, at Mid-day in Haiphong (Tonkin), JULE D'ABBADIE, partner of the firm of Marty d'Abbadie of Haiphong.

## Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET. E.C.

## ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 25th November arrived, per the ss. *Australien*, on the 27th inst.; and the English Mail of the 2nd December is expected to arrive, per the ss. *Coromandel*, on the 31st inst.

## EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

There are now 3,758 Russian prisoners in Japan.

The Philippines Tariff Commission has sent its report to Congress.

Dr. George King, of the Peking Syndicate, in Honan, North China, is reported to have died of pneumonia.

The Governor of Chekiang, in obedience to orders, is trying to enlist three thousand new troops to be drilled Japanese fashion.

The report that a leading Shanghai firm had received a telegram last week announcing the recall of the Baltic Fleet was a bunder.

The American consulate at Shanghai is now in charge of Mr. J. W. Davidson, while Mr. Jno. Goodnow is in the United States. Dr. Knappe (Consul-General for Germany) is now the doyen.

Capt. Dunlop, of the s.s. *Giang Seng*, which arrived at Singapore on December 15th from Samarang, reported that he picked up two Chinamen in the bottom of a fishing boat off Pulo Sau in the Rio Strait.

Telegraphing from Tokyo on Dec. 21st, the N.C. *Daily News* correspondent reported that the N.Y.K.S. *Owari Maru*, 1016 tons gross, was driven ashore in a gale, at Nemuro in Hokkaido. All on board were saved.

Mr. Hugh Richard Phelps, Local Auditor of the East African Protectorate, has been appointed Local Auditor of Hongkong in succession to Mr. Hilgrove Clement Nicolle, who has been appointed Treasurer of Ceylon.

While on a voyage between Newchwang and Kobe the shaft of the Chinese steamer *Victoria* broke and the vessel drifted for some distance until sighted by the British steamer *Hounslow*, which took her in tow to Nagasaki for repairs.

The hyena which escaped from Harms-ton's Circus at Manila afforded the local scribes columns of copy. The *Cablenews* complained that it kept people awake with its laughing. It was described as "raring with merriment."

The demand by the Shanghai Taotai for the rendition of two Russian marines charged with murdering a Chinaman was telegraphically reported in the *Daily Press*. The N.C. *Daily News* explains that he proposed to try them by "International law."

An extraordinary general meeting of the Wo Shun Steamboat Co., Ltd. will be held on the 9th prox., when the following resolution will be submitted for the confirmation of the meeting:—That the capital of the company be increased to \$140,000 by the creation of 90 new shares of \$10 each.

At Shanghai, it appears, gas is a much cheaper illuminant than electricity. A correspondent of our contemporary says that he is paying just twice as much for light since he had the electric system put in. He has to pay half a tael monthly for hire of the meter, whereas his old gas meter was gratis.

The *Peking Times* congratulates Mr. John Foley, Traffic Manager of the Imperial Railways, on the receipt of another decoration. Recently, General Petzel called on Mr. Foley and in the name of the Emperor William presented him with the handsome order of the Red Eagle, in recognition of his services rendered to the German troops ever since the occupation.

A case in which the wisdom of Solomon might have been of no avail has been before Mr. Hazeland at the Police Court for the last two days. His Worship was asked to decide who was the rightful owner of a chair. There were witnesses to swear that the chair was the property of the complainant; others to prove that it belonged to the defendant. The evidence given on both sides was apparently without flaw, and His Worship eventually had to dismiss the case.

We regret to learn that a disagreeable accident happened on Christmas Day to the Hon. Mr. F. H. May. Mr. May was acting "Father Christmas" at his children's Xmas tree when the cotton-wool attached as trimming to his coat caught fire, and running up the trimming set fire to a cotton-wool beard he was wearing. The fire was promptly put out, and, although painful, the injuries, we are glad to learn, were not serious. Drs. Atkinson and Jordan dressed the burns and Mr. May expects to be out in three or four days' time.

A Peking letter states, according to the N.C. *Daily News*, that a wealthy notable of Anhui province, named Sun, has succeeded in starting a Company for the establishment of a cotton spinning mill in the district of Po-hou, in the same province. He has already obtained shares to the extent of Tls. 100,000, of which the Grand Secretary Wang Wenshao and Generals Ma Yu-kun and Chiang Kuei-ti—the latter commanding the division of Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai's foreign-modelled troops guarding the Imperial Palaces—have bought Tls. 60,000 worth. A special deputy, a sub-prefect named Tien Kuei, who has a little knowledge of English, it is stated, has been appointed to go to the United States to purchase the necessary machinery for the proposed mill.

It is reported from Peking that members of secret societies from the Southern and Central provinces have been lately organising branch societies in the neighbourhood of Kalran, on the Chihli-Mongolian frontier. The names of the secret societies are Tsaiyuan Hui (from South-western Chihli), Hun chun Hui (Honan province), and Santien Hui (from Kwangtung province). It is further stated that the emissaries of these societies have been very successful, each society having obtained from 900 to 1,200 members, within the past three months. The authorities, however, appear to be aware of these things, and are preparing for eventualities.

At the 64th Annual Meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, held on the 13th December, the Directors, after providing for the usual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the Preferred Stock, recommended a dividend on the Deferred Stock of 6½ per cent. for the six months and a bonus of 3 per cent., making, with the Interim Dividend of 3½ per cent. paid in June, a total dividend of 13 per cent. for the year.



## CHINA ASSOCIATION DINNER.

(Daily Press, 24th December.)

The annual dinner of the members of the China Association in London is always a great success. It serves to bring together many old friends and acquaintances, keeps alive the interest of members in the proceedings of the Association, which are conducted by the Committee during the year, and reminds the Government and the public of the existence of a body formed to watch over the interests of Britain in the Far East. The saying that "a dinner lubricates business" applies also to the functions of a public body, whose wheels are often made to revolve more readily by a little social festivity. For these reasons we are glad to note that the China Association's dinner in London has become an annual event, which is looked forward to not alone as a meeting of the society, but also as a meeting ground where old China hands may keep alive the memories and questions which were once continually before them and enable them to keep in touch with the new generation of colonists. The dinner is likewise useful in bringing in guests from the various public services who have in the past and may in the future work in harmony with the unofficial element in the Far East to promote the interests of British trade and to uphold British influence and prestige. On these occasions, naturally, when the good fare cheers the body and the good wine heartens the spirit, the tongue runs freely and neat compliments are exchanged and encouraging words said which go to soothe the worried or irritated worker and, in not a few cases, secure to those who have borne the heat and burden of the day a merited tribute. Such a tribute was generously paid by Sir THOMAS JACKSON at the annual meeting to Mr. R. S. GUNDRY, the former Hon. Secretary in London of the Association. Compliments had been flying about pretty freely during the evening, and the proceedings were wearing to a close, but the large-souled Chairman was not going to let the occasion pass without giving to their old Secretary his meed of praise. After replying to the toast of his own health, most cordially proposed by Mr. W. KESWICK, he said:—"There is one thing I should like to refer to, and which I am sure must be a source of pride to every member of our Association, and that is the distinction that has been conferred upon our splendid old secretary. His work has not been of the ordinary description. I think he is one of the most honest, manly, and straightforward men I have ever met, and I am sure we all sincerely hope he will live long to enjoy the honour that His most gracious Majesty has conferred upon him." The applause that followed these remarks sufficiently attested their appreciation, which is shared, we feel sure, by members of all branches of the China Association.

While, however, these annual banquets play a useful and a pleasing part in the history of this great and influential association, we trust the Committee will not be content to live on the memory or reputation built up very largely by the indefatigable efforts and signal ability of Mr. GUNDRY. The Association must keep pushing, must continue to progress. The Chairman, when proposing the toast of prosperity to the China Association, rightly said he must confine his remarks on the doings of the Committee by saying that all their works and proceedings would "be written in the book of the chronicles of the Association for 1903-4," and he then proceeded to refer at some length to the stirring events now

taking place in Manchuria, and expressed the hope and belief that the result of the war would be to lead to great developments in the trade with China, which he considered was still in its infancy. But naturally he said nothing as to what the Association was doing or thinking of doing to secure for British capital and British merchants their share in that coming development. That the Association is still active and using its influence on behalf of British commercial interests we are well assured, and we can only hope that its influence with the Foreign Office has not waned. We should like to feel equally assured that it is working strenuously to bring about the early construction of the railways in China for which concessions have been secured by British syndicates. It would likewise be comforting to know that the London Office of the Association is urging on the Government the propriety of encouraging and assisting the Chinese Imperial Government to adopt a scheme for placing the currency of China on a stable basis. The Peking Authorities are quite disposed to adopt a uniform coinage on a gold basis, and only need sufficient encouragement from the Treaty Powers to take the plunge. It is for the permanent interest of British manufactures that such a step should be taken, and there is no question that it would be followed by a considerable expansion of business. At present, owing to the uncertainties of exchange, Chinese dealers in foreign piece goods and other merchandise are afraid to do more than order for the supply of immediate requirements, and business on anything but the narrowest scale is out of the question. The loss caused to British and foreign mercantile residents in Hongkong and the Treaty ports of China is continuous and enormous, and there is nothing, under present conditions, to make up for this most serious decline, while it seems hopeless to expect any effort on the part of the British Authorities to deal with the currency of this Colony. The Straits Settlements have their dollar on a gold basis, but that Colony's borders are not contentious with the frontier of China; they are separated from the Central Kingdom by nearly fifteen hundred miles of water. The intervening sea in this case is a substantial blessing, for Hongkong has to pay for its propinquity to Celestial soil by sharing China's losses through the vagaries of the white metal. It remains for the China Association to endeavour to remove these disabilities from British subjects in China, and to labour unweariedly for the promotion of railway facilities in South and Central China, to the end that British influence and prestige may be maintained, and the prosperity and expansion of this Colony in the near future secured beyond doubt.

## MURDERS AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press 24th December.)

The three beachcombers, who killed a Chinese sampan woman recently under circumstances which one of themselves related with extraordinary callousness, were sentenced to death yesterday. The Jury recommended them to mercy, a recommendation which the Judge acknowledged with the customary formula that he could hold out no hope to the convicted men. It is our painful duty to speak of the recommendation in an unsympathetic manner. We all realise how distressing it must be for ordinary citizens to be called upon to return a verdict that involves, in the ordinary course of law, the death of the prisoners. In our opinion, allowance should be made for this very natural feeling, and

such recommendations, in cases like the present, should not be taken too seriously. In cases like this, racial questions should not be raised for one moment. It is sufficient to remember that fellow human beings, fellow subjects, have been foully done to death. There are many murders in which the murderer clearly has no animus against the particular victim. The burglar and the pirate kills any unfortunate creature who may happen to oppose his unlawful proceedings: that is murder, just as much as if the slayer, actuated by hatred of a specific enemy, were to lie in wait and kill that one. Humanity is one thing, and hysterical sentiment is another. The safety of the community depends upon the careful administration of justice; and a tempering thereof with unwise mercy may easily endanger that safety.

In connection with another case, we have received a letter from a gentleman who considers that the life sentence inflicted for a recent dastardly assault upon a baby girl was too severe. We are amazed that any man could entertain such an opinion for a moment. Once such an offence is proved, we can scarcely consider any sentence too severe. He says "this offence was not of like gravity" (with manslaughter). We agree. It was, in our opinion, infinitely more heinous.

## COREA'S HARD CASE.

(Daily Press, 27th December.)

It is not useful to speak of Corea's present position as some Orient newspapers are at present speaking. It is easy to outpour sentiment in connection with the apparently hard, painful, and unfair position into which Corea, as the cockpit of the East, has been thrust; but there is no great excuse for doing so. In her geographical position, Corea needed a much more settled and strong administration than has been her lot while Russia, China, Japan, and England have been wrangling round her borders. England's temporary occupation of Port Hamilton from 1885 to 1887 would presumably never have been adventured but for Russia's intrigues to establish a protectorate over Corea; and but for Corea's domestic disorder, involving all kinds of fatal cross purposes, it is unlikely that Japan, with whom the new Emperor made wise treaty, could have been forced into the rôle of the tyrant of to-day, as depicted by the sentimentalist. The Emperor's father, whom LI HUNG CHANG so cleverly withdrew from mischief, was an incarnation of China in her relations with the irresistible foreigner. His riotous attack on the Japanese Legation at Seoul was only the first of a series of incidents, more or less prominent, continued by anti-foreign imitators, that has made it clearly impossible to obtain peace while Corea remains a debateable land, inspiratory of the covetousness of her neighbours. For a long time it was China and Japan which faced each other on Korean soil; and that Corea's unhappy lot was fully recognised is evident in the China-Japan treaty of 1885. Both countries, while thus emphasising Corea's moral right to absolute autonomy, foresaw that unless Corea herself awoke to her responsibilities, there would be more trouble. Corea was in the position of the lunatic and distracted person whose affairs must be administered by the community unless injustice is to be done by reason of his incompetence. The way in which Corea, who must be held responsible for the various cliques at headquarters, coquetted with Russia after the China-Japan war was evidence of hopeless incompetence, if of



nothing less excusable. Even neutrality, unsupported by force, or power, is more dangerous than otherwise. As Mr. T. COWEN in his recent book on the Russo-Japanese war says, Korea has been so weak and so blind as to lend herself to alien intrigues which constitute a grave menace to Japan. Korea is obviously not a country to stand alone, and from more points of view than that of Japan herself, Japan ought to be the leaning post. Mr. COWEN says: "Though the land has immense capabilities, the Koreans do almost nothing with it, for they say it is useless to acquire wealth; the officials would rob them the more, and it is easier to remain idle than to acquire property and go to the trouble of stopping the robbery." This view of the typical Korean is a dependable one; and we are not disposed, from a British standpoint, to quarrel with any measures Japan may take to bring about a more desirable state of things for all interested. Those of our foreign contemporaries in Korea, and even in Japan, who have been painting Korea as the injured martyr to Japanese aggression may have the better of an academic discussion, but for practical politics, a free hand for Japan in Korea seems the better way.

#### HOUSE RENT AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 28th December.)

It is a common complaint in the East that house rents are dear, and in Hongkong, we have been accustomed to hear it without cavil, the popular idea being that it must be true because it must be so. That is, it is recognised as a fact that sites suitable for the erection of dwelling houses are scarce. This is not particularly truer than are most popular beliefs. There are sites in plenty still untouched by the foundation digger, sites that are desirable, and sites that will in all probability be built upon as the colony continues its development. For a place of its size, it would be unreasonable to expect to see at any one time more houses in progress of erection than is the case at the end of this year of nineteen-ought-four. And yet, in spite of the rapidly completing domiciles dotting the slopes of the Peak, and the numerous rows and terraces going up at Kowloon, it appears that in neither district is there any indication of a reduction in the amount of the monthly rent. On the contrary, we are assured that there are signs of a very appreciable, but not appreciated, increase in the landlords' levies. It is quite reasonable, having regard to the correct definition of dearness, to suggest that, in regarding Hongkong house rents as excessive, the local rent payers are in error. All the same, such a suggestion will probably be received with both surprise and incredulity. It has to be remembered that there is more than one circumstance to take into reckoning. It is not a question only of supply and demand. Upkeep and repairs are more expensive than at Home, and it is by comparison with Home rates that the tenant here acquires the impression that he is being imposed upon. Then, too, the value of money being greater, the investor in house property has a natural right to expect returns to some degree commensurate with those enjoyed by the holders of other forms of investment. Taking as examples the men of small income, the European clerk say, with salary at \$175 a month, he must pay, at Kowloon, for the most modest domicile suiting his condition, from \$56 to \$67 a month. The same person at Home would get a similarly appropriate dwelling for 30s. to £2 a month, but he would receive only, at the handsomest

computation, something like £9 a month as salary. Thus, the margin left after the initial outlay to the Hongkong clerk is more than half his income, while at Home the balance available for other needs is considerably over the three-fourths. This would appear to demonstrate the truth of the statement as to the dearness of Hongkong rentals. What has been said must, however, be qualified in several important particulars. In arriving at Home figures, we have quoted provincial rents and maximum salaries. As a matter of fact, the \$175 and \$200 clerk at Hongkong would find keen competition for his Home situation at £5 a month; while in a city of the size and commercial importance of Hongkong he could not hope to find a conveniently situated house for anything like the rents we have mentioned. Train or bus fares would probably about balance the ricksha or chair expenses here, taking the figures in proportion. Keeping still to the same incomes, we may assume that the colonial clerk has the advantage. Many of his necessities, and more of his luxuries, are cheaper. He may, if he chooses, live better, and save more for a rainy day, than his desk-enslaved colleague at Home can ever hope to do. There is, of course, the question of domestic service. A wife cannot, if she would, play the drudge out here that she does at Home, so that the cost of servants' hire has to be faced by the married man of modest income. That he has so often, in Hongkong, to share his roof with others, to meet the rent difficulty, is a much less trying feature than the common necessity at Home, in like circumstances, of taking in lodgers. Considerations such as these should moderate some of the expressions of discontent so frequently heard locally.

#### THE APOSTLE THOMAS IN INDIA.

(Daily Press, 29th December.)

One of the widest spread of Church legends has it that the Apostle THOMAS had for his sphere of teaching Asia; and that he was successful in converting the Armenians, the people of India, the Chinese, and the "Ethiopians." A later version of the legend relates how he was finally killed by an accident at a place called Mailapur, "the Peacock City," called by MARCO POLO Maabar, who gives the story of the death of the Apostle current in his time, and adds: "Before he came to that place, where he thus died, he had been in Nubia, where he converted much people to the faith of JESUS CHRIST." By the XVIth century the story had attained such currency that in 1522 the Portuguese under the viceroyalty of DUARTE MENEZES actually appointed a commission to visit the site, where they found certain bones, which with great *ecclat* were transported to Goa, to the Church St. Thomas, where they are still to be seen.

Of course the older version mentioned in the apocryphal Acts, and referred to the IVth century, speaks of the translation of the body of the saint from his place of death to Edessa in Mesopotamia in the year 394, while St. JEROME, about the same date, mentions St. THOMAS as having preached the faith in India, so that very respectable authority exists as to the connection of the saint with the Indian peninsula. Still, in the face of the very serious discrepancies in the two stories, the more sober historians have for the last two centuries, at least, been disposed to treat the entire story as little better than a monkish fable, and quite unworthy of credit. Of late

years more recent investigations into the early history of the old state of Gandhara, roughly represented by modern Afghanistan, assisted by the discovery *in situ* of a nearly perfect sequence of coins, have brought to light unexpected coincidences between the older legend and the sovereigns and place names of the valley of the Cabul River, which cannot be merely accidental, and which go far to strengthen the authenticity of the older legend, and throw light on the actual evangelistic work of the Apostle. Mr. W. R. PHILIPPS, in the *Indian Antiquary*, has lately been summing up the results of his investigations. The "Acts of St. Thomas" is one of those apocryphal works of the early Christian ages which are now only beginning to attract at the hands of historic students the attention they deserve, not from their intrinsic value, which is of the smallest, but from the curious sidelights they throw on many disputed questions in history, and the early expansion of the Christian religion. The original work seems to have been written about the latter part of the fifth century, but the oldest surviving transcript belongs to the year 936: the story as told is interesting. After the death of JESUS the Apostles divided amongst themselves the countries to be evangelised, and India fell to the part of THOMAS, who, however, showed little inclination for the task. JESUS himself appeared and caused THOMAS to be sold to a merchant called HABBAN, who had received an order from the King of India, whose name was GUNDAPHAR, to obtain an artist to construct and dedicate his palace. The two set out together and landed at a place called Sandaruk. Now who was this GUNDAPHAR, and what was his kingdom? From the evidence of coins a King belonging to the Indo-Scythic state which at one time possessed the valley of the Cabul River, called himself GUNDOPHERES, and there is no doubt that the two were identical. But GUNDOPHERES is an unmistakably Gothic name, the equivalent of GUNDOBERT, a name well known elsewhere as GUNDOBERT or GUNDOBALD. The Chinese writers here come to our aid, and we find he must have been the immediate successor of the king mentioned by Han writers as having crossed the Hindu Kush a few years after the birth of CHRIST, and whom they call KITOLU; and whom we must identify with the Greek KATULPHUS, whose plainly Teutonic form struck YULE as remarkable. From a comparison of the various transcriptions of the name, Chinese and Greek, there is little doubt that some such form as Gothic GUTHLAR was intended. Next as to the country where the Apostle landed, there is equally little doubt that he took the ordinary sea route traversed by the Greek merchants of the day, and landed at one of the sea ports at or near the mouth of the Indus in lower Scinde, which was, as we learn from both Greek and Roman authorities, the general method of going to the upper Punjab. Sandaruk, which has apparently stood in the way of previous commentators, is thus simply a corrupt rendering of Sanscrit Sindhu-rajya, the country of Sindhu, the contemporary name of the district. Here, the story tells us, they assisted at the marriage ceremonies of the local Rajah's daughter, whose father afterwards helped them on their way to the Court of GUNDOPHAR, then, as we learn from other sources, situated at Parashawar, the present Peshawar. So far the local colouring of the tale is clear, and points to the writer as having had personal experience of the route: what follows is more difficult. THOMAS in due course received payment for his work, and earned, according to



chronicler, besides, as a reward for his good works, his wages in Heaven. He had succeeded in converting not only the King but his brother GAD.

Here, however, occurs a narrative more difficult of explanation. An individual named SIFUR, plainly the common Persian SHAPUR, represented as a general in the service of King MAZDAI, came to visit THOMAS, and took him away in an ox carriage. Here a difficulty arises as to who was this King MAZDAI, and here we must venture on conjecture. Amongst the coins of the country recently discovered are some that bear the strange superscription—Sno-nanashao Bazodeo Koshano, regarding which a curious story has been elaborated of three kings, brothers, bearing the strange titles of KANISKA, HUSHKA and JUSHKA, an evident Mohammedan transliteration similar to such forms as YAGUJ and MAGUJ, &c. Rather do these words seem to be titles of some of the later kings of the same country, that of Koshana, the modern Kesh. The first inscription to be noticed is plain, Kshatra kshatraonam, cynisca Kushano, "Kshatra of Kshatras, king of Kushan"; the other above described is possibly an attempt at a translation of the same into some Indian vernacular, and the name or title seems to be identical with the Vasudeva of the Mathura inscriptions. Here he converted many of the principal persons about the Court, whose names so far as given do not readily lend themselves to identification.

The result of these recent investigations would seem to be that there is strong ground for the old legend that St. THOMAS really did come to the north-west of India, and that his mission had considerable success in the Gothic Kingdom of the Indo-Scythians, which up to about the sixth century was the most powerful neighbour of the Persian Empire of the Sassanian, and that he certainly travelled over the lands of the Pamirs, and at least as far into India itself as southern Scinde. He was probably executed under one of the later so-called Scythian kings, but his body was nevertheless buried in the royal sepulchre at Peshawur; whence towards the close of the fourth century it was removed and reinterred near the present Turkish town of Orfah in Mesopotamia.

There does not appear the slightest evidence of his ever having been so far east in India as the city of Madras, and we must dismiss as a late fable the story of his remains having been removed to Goa. There remains one other fact of which we have reasonable evidence. POLO, as we have seen, sent him to Nubia. Ethiopia was, however, the country of which POLO's informant must have spoken. The Ethiopia intended was not the African, but the Asiatic Ethiopia spoken of by HERODOTUS whose inhabitants in connection with the Indians formed part of the great army which followed XERXES to the attack on Greece. They had, in opposition to the curly locks of the African Ethiopians, straight hair, and are to be looked for in the inhabitants of Beluchistan, and thus near neighbours of the Indo-Scythians in Afghanistan. The Church has fixed his festival on the 21st December, the reason of which is not very plain, but is probably connected with the octave of the Winter Solstice of which it is the opening.

We are informed by a Parsee contributor that Mr. S. D. Setna left Hongkong for Bombay by the English mail on Dec. 31. Mr. Setna, as manager of the Cawasjee Pallanjee & Co. Hong, is a well-known business man, and being also a society man, he has many friends who condole with him on the recent death of his father, the sad event, which occasions his departure.

## A TAX ON MANDARINS.

(Daily Press, 30th December.)

WANG CHIA CHI, the "probationary commissary of records," in the Chekiang prefecture, is a Chinaman for whom we feel obliged to express some admiration. To judge from his memorial to T'IEH LIANG, one of the commissioners whose duty is to scrape the provinces in order to enrich the Imperial treasure-chests, WANG is an enlightened, an honest, a fearless, and—it is to be feared—a foolish man. According to the translation of his memorial, which we reproduce to-day from the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, he has realised the difference between Chinese and foreign methods of government, and the real use of troops. He points out that foreign nations never "oppress and exhaust" the people in order to raise troops. He also sees that in more blessed lands, the troops are guarantors of trade and good order, instead of disturbers thereof. China is asking for more troops, but as her present lot has turned out to be, and WANG has a novel, a daring, and withal a sensible scheme to obtain the necessary funds.

His prefatory remarks are evidence of his knowledge of the thinness of the ice over which he skates. "Very often," he says, "faithful advice cannot be given to high authorities for fear of giving offence. I am well aware that my unworthy words will be of no service, but cannot help speaking frankly to you about this matter. You are here in the South with the order to raise funds for drilling troops in Peking. The Southern provinces are generally known as fertile and rich, but in reality they are wealthy only in appearance, and nine out of ten houses have been empty for a long time." Among the causes he enumerates for this state of affairs, he is bound, being a Chinaman, to mention the foreign indemnities; but he does not, as he might well have done, attribute the poverty of the South to the disorder which it has continued to suffer so long. His proposal is nothing less than a tax upon mandarins. The Throne may be "hard up" occasionally, the people may be starving, but the pinch was never known to be felt by the high officials. "For the past 300 years the dynasty has had thousands of officials, and the ministers in the court have lived on the fat of the land at the expense of the people. They have every luxury that can be enjoyed, yet they complain. They are the most ungrateful people in the world. These are the people from whom funds should be raised." WANG would assess the mandarins forty per cent. of their incomes, and thus this HARCOURT of Sinim sees a prospect of millions of taels without difficulty. "At first it would be a great surprise to the public generally, but the people would be pleased." We are told that this scheme has found favour at Peking, and that the proposer has been summoned to an audience. We hope no harm may befall him, but we cannot repress some anxiety. For one thing, the memorialist was indiscreet enough to suggest that half of the money so raised would be sufficient to send to Peking. The other moiety he proposed to distribute among the commercial bureaus in the provinces, to be spent in encouraging inventors to improve implements and tools. "In this way the spirit of the people may be roused, and the resources of the country developed." This will not be popular at Peking, and the whole thing is likely to be pigeonholed in consequence, while the enterprising and enlightened WANG will possibly meet a similar fate. It is a great pity, for he has undoubtedly put his finger on the most proper and profitable source of

income. If it were made to apply to capital, as well as to income, there might be a surprising disgorge of funds that have no business to be where they are at present; but it is a dream unlikely of fulfilment.

WANG is against Sir ROBERT HAET's scheme, of course, and he remarks: "The tariff of likin is five per cent., but owing to its passing through so many hands, it amounts to fully thirty per cent." Mandarins would no doubt do as better men do in other countries, and misrepresent their incomes, when WANG's collectors came round. If they failed to persuade the income tax people of their poverty, they would also soon recoup themselves, in the old sweet way, and so the groaning taxpayer would be no better off in the end. There must be nothing short of a revolution of some kind before the status and well-being of the Celestial *hoi polloi* can be really made good. Taxing the mandarin is not at all a bad idea, but suppressing him, as MARK TWAIN would say, with a club, would be cheaper, and more efficacious in the long run.

## HONGKONG JOTTING.

27th December.

To the Reader each and every, all and sundry—"Here's to our next Merry Xmas!"

When we read what Renter has to say about the weather in England this Christmas, we can take the flatteringunction to our souls that we in Hongkong have had much to be thankful for. True, the weather on Christmas Eve was what the ladies term "horrid," but we were favoured with a fine, clear, bracing atmosphere on Xmas Day, and the weather yesterday was just the thing for the necessary ramble over the hills to digest the proceedings of the day before. It is interesting to note that the lowest temperature recorded on Christmas Day at the Observatory was 45 degrees; the highest was 58 degrees. So far, then, Christmas Day may be set down as the coldest day of the year.

Being Christmas time it is permissible to ask a conundrum. "What is the difference between Monkey Brand and a British Tar?" I see it all-ged in a home paper—not *The Statist*—that this conundrum was recently chalked up in a prominent place on Admiral Noel's flagship, and the answer is said to have much amused the gallant Admiral. While the reader is guessing at the answer, I shall have time to mention the rumour that on taking over the command of the China squadron Admiral Noel, regarded the putting of the laundry work into the hands of the Chinese as an act of laziness and prohibited it. Following upon this order, some Mark Tapley propounded the conundrum presented above. Give it up? Well the answer is: "One won't wash clothes, and the other has to!"

A cricket match was played at the Happy Valley in the rain on Saturday. The players dug up a lot of the turf, but the morrow being Xmas they were not interred in the pits they had made. The next teams that use the pitch will probably think they ought to have been.

The turncock, I suppose, like the other servants of the Government, rested from his labours on Xmas Day, and slept off the effects yesterday morning. Now that the day for preaching peace and good will to all men has passed by, the bad habit of indulging now and then in a little grumble is upon me again. Why didn't the turncock rise on Monday morning in time to give the community water for the matutinal tub? It has not yet been officially announced that there is any scarcity of water, but the turncock has been playing fine tricks during the past week. Must we put it all down to the festive season?

I would with all humility call the attention of the official responsible for the condition of the roads to the need for some repairs on the



Chamblain Road, at the Peak. The road has really never been repaired since it was first made during Sir William Robinson's administration. It is an admirably constructed road—the best at the Peak—and the most used, reflecting much credit on Mr. Chatham, under whose supervision it was made. The concrete in some parts is, however, now worn away and some nasty holes are developing, while for a good stretch at the farther end it has become decidedly unpleasant for pedestrians, particularly for ladies, owing to the protrusion of stones through the concrete, making it rather like the "petrified kidney" pavement once common in some English towns.

The remarks addressed by His Excellency the Governor to the pupils and teachers of St. Joseph's College, on the 17th inst. at the ceremony of the distribution of prizes at that institution, were very much to the point. Sir Matthew Nathan dwelt with much force on the necessity of training going hand in hand with education. "Training without education," he said, "lost a good deal of its value, and education without training might prove injurious. That is, at least, I think, the pith of what he laid down and all friends of the rising race will endorse these words. The child is the father of the man; the tree grows as the twig is bent; and it rests with those responsible for the training of the young as to what the next generation will turn out. Sir Matthew Nathan was not content with pointing out a defect; he suggested a remedy, and if it be acted upon, it will, I think, prove efficacious.

In the history of the Colony it has, happily, not often been the painful duty of the Chief Justice to pronounce the sentence of death on white men, but it is a mistake to suppose that Sir Henry B. Kelsey is the first judge who has had that extremely disagreeable duty to perform. I do not think, however, that a white man has been executed in the Gaol since 1878. Then an American named Charles Newman paid the extreme penalty for the brutal murder of a Portuguese named Severando Casar Gutierrez. Newman was a desperate character, and not many months before the murder had suffered imprisonment for a brutal assault on a police inspector. After his release he went to Shanghai, but his violent conduct there led to his deportation, and he had been back in Hongkong only two days when he committed the crime for which his life was forfeited in December 1878. This is not, I am told, the only previous case, but of any that may have occurred prior to that date I am unable to furnish any information.

Hongkong enjoys a reputation for religious toleration, but in every community there is to be found somebody keen to raise the odium theologum. It appears that the fact that the laying of the foundation stone of a Roman Catholic church in Kowloon within a few days of the commencement of work on the new Episcopal Church which Sir Paul Chater is generously building has suggested the appearance of bitter rivalry between Catholics and Protestants. As a matter of fact, the proposal to build a Catholic Church at Kowloon had taken definite shape long before the other. It was an "open secret" that Dr. Gomes intended devoting a third part of the legacy he received from his father to that object, but until the dispute over the will had been settled the matter had to remain in abeyance. The practical and unostentatious assistance Dr. Gomes has for many years given to Catholic institutions, especially in Kowloon, is very generally known, and it was long ago recognised that the growing population on the Peninsula had rendered a large Catholic Church a necessity. It surprises most people when they learn for the first time that there is neither an Episcopal nor a Roman Catholic Church in Kowloon worthy of the name.

#### BANYAN.

The tea merchants are already taking steps to secure space for China teas in the Belgian exhibition, and arranging to have exhibit shipments passed through the Customs free. It is doubtful, however, whether they will meet with as much success as they enjoyed in America.

## HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on the 27th instant. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present the Hon. Mr. P. N. H. Jones, the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Col. W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Fung Wa-han, Mr. F. J. Badley, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. P. P. Lock, K.C., Dr. F. Clarke, Dr. H. Macfarlane, Dr. P. Barnett and Mr. Orme (Assistant Secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

#### A MOTION.

The PRESIDENT, pursuant to notice, moved—that the Board, with the approval of His Excellency the Governor, appoint Police Sergeant Robert Fenton, a Sanitary Inspector for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the bye-laws for the "Prevention or mitigation of epidemic, endemic or contagious disease."

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

#### CHINESE METHOD OF SLAUGHTERING.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, in a minute to the Board, wrote:—The large animals, water buffaloes, are shot at Kennedy Town by a service rifle and at Hung Hom by a Winchester carbine. These are used by the Inspector only. Pattern hammer poleaxes were made locally after the English pattern, but were not a great success. The butchers had not the dexterity required. A heavier and modified form was substituted and these now work satisfactorily.

Mr. E. A. Hewett minute: I should like to have an official statement from the C.V.S. that the present pattern of poleaxe is of the best pattern suitable for use here. What we have to aim at is that animal slaughtered for food are not to death as humanely, and with as little pain as possible.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon again minute:—The poleaxe in use produces complete unconsciousness instantaneously, and is, so far as I know, the most suitable weapon for use by Chinese butchers. The effectiveness in producing death with a minimum of suffering is quite equal to the English pattern. The reason why the English pattern was not a success is that the English butcher strikes his blow with a swing as in golf playing, whereas the Chinese butcher strikes his blow overhead in the same way as a fore hammer is used by a blacksmith. The English pattern was the more too light for use here by Chinese unless with a training that meant an infliction of suffering which it was our object to avoid.

#### OPEN SPACE.

There was an application for a modification of the requirements of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, in respect of No. 8, Chung Ching Street.

The PRESIDENT moved, Mr. A. RUMJAHN seconded, and it was agreed that the application be granted.

#### REBUILDING OLD HOUSES.

Another application was for a modification of the requirements in respect of No. 104, Jervois Street, and Nos 8 and 10 Cleverly Street. The owner of these houses contemplated rebuilding the premises, and applied for exemption from provision of backyards as the houses would be on Jervois Street with Cleverly Street along the side and Wai Wa Lane for a portion of the back. The houses were intended for a good class of tenants—not coolies.

Mr. Perkins, of the P.W.D., minute: that the case was exceptional, as the owner was being forced to pull down the present premises under notice from the Public Works Department. There was, it seemed, harsh when they were forcing a man to rebuild the entire place, to also subject him to penalties for so doing by restricting his available building area. He would suggest that if a fire-proof floor was erected as a floor for the first floor the building might be exempted from open space on the ground floor which was practically shops, and that an open space of at least 100 square feet for the rest of the building be insisted on.

Dr. F. Clarke, M.O.H., in a minute, recommended that under the exceptional circumstances the Board require a yard of restricted area, about 100 square feet. This would involve no great

hardship, the yard he suggested being less than one tenth of the site.

The Hon. Registrar-General minute:—Why is the owner being forced to pull down the building?

The Hon. D.P.W. minute:—Walls in a dangerous condition, and after much pressure the architects agreed to pull down the entire premises, but pressed that some modification should be given in view of the fact that Government was insisting on pulling down the house which they held was not seriously defective. The proposals are for really improved premises to those that exist at present, and the modification recommended by the M.O.H. should be granted.

The PRESIDENT moved that the Board approve the application with such modifications as recommended by the M.O.H.

Mr. F. J. BADELEY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

#### LANE AREA.

A third application was for a modification of the requirements in respect of Nos. 26, 28, 30, and 32, First Street. It was an application to allow a lane at the rear of the mentioned houses to count towards the open area as required by the Ordinance. The applicant also asked for exemption from the provisions of a scavenging lane, as an open lane of ten feet in width had been provided entirely by the owner of the property.

Dr. F. Clarke, M.O.H., recommended that all that portion of the lane in excess of six feet in width required by the Ordinance be allowed to count as open space in the rear, provided that a wall in the plan be removed.

The Hon. D.P.W. minute:—I agree with the M.O.H.

The PRESIDENT moved that the application be granted subject to the terms mentioned in the M.O.H.'s minute.

Mr. A. RUMJAHN seconded, and it was agreed to.

#### THE EUROPEAN RESERVATION.

There was also an application for a modification of the requirements in respect of No. 18, Caine Road. It was an application to erect a kitchen on the roof of the house.

Dr. B. Barnett, assistant M.O.H., in a minute, did not recommend exemption, as he thought it would form a bad precedent, and if the land in the rear was built over such a kitchen would obstruct the air from such houses. He thought that if a closed stove were used in the present kitchen the occupants of the house would not suffer from a smoky chimney.

Messrs. E. A. Hewett and the Captain Superintendent of Police minute:—Refuse.

The Hon. Registrar-General minute:—I agree with the assistant M.O.H. Is not the building in the European Reservation?

The Hon. D.P.W. minute:—This building is not in the European Reservation, but this does not affect the matter.

Mr. A. RUMJAHN—I think it is in the European Reservation.

The Hon. Mr. JONES—No, that is on the other side of the road.

The Hon. Mr. BREWIN—All Caine Road is in the European Reservation.

The PRESIDENT moved, the Hon. Mr. BREWIN seconded, and it was agreed that the application be refused.

#### FIVE STOREY HOUSES.

A further application was made for a modification of the requirements in respect of a building on Kowloon Inland Lot No. 402, Robinson Road.

This application was in respect of Station Hotel. The applicant desired to erect five storey wings at the rear of the building.

Dr. F. Clarke, M.O.H., recommended that Mr. J. Lemm's (the architect) plan be not accepted. If, however, he left additional open space of more than 400 square feet around the building he recommended that the plan be accepted—the extra open space would make a great difference to the lighting and ventilating of the Hotel.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., minute:—I think that the new plan may be accepted.

Mr. A. RUMJAHN minute:—I agree with Mr. Pollock.

The Hon. Registrar-General minute:—The acceptability of this plan seems to depend upon the probability of the neighbouring lot owners not making as much use as they can of their



lots. This is not very likely. What does the community gain and what does it lose by our accepting this plan?

The PRESIDENT—The community gains an addition of 40 square feet around the building which could not be insisted upon.

The Hon. Mr. BREWIN—I do not think it worth it. I do not think the benefit is worth allowing an extra storey to exclude light and increase surface crowding.

Mr. F. J. BADELEY—The matter goes to the Governor in Council.

The Hon. Mr. BREWIN—I move the Board decline to recommend, and leave the matter for the consideration of the Government. It is an exceptional thing for houses to exceed four storeys here. They ought to give some reason for the rule to be relaxed. The M.O.H. says that 400 feet will be given to increase in height the building. I think four storeys high enough for any building. I move that we recommend the application be refused.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—If the Board establish a precedent it may have a far-reaching effect—it might lead to the introduction of five storey buildings calculated to promote overcrowding. So many more storeys, so many more people to the acre!

Dr. F. C. LAKE—It is going to be a European hotel.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—It may later be converted into a Chinese hotel.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—I second the (Mr. Brewin's) motion.

The motion was carried.

#### A BALCONY.

There was an application for permission to erect a balcony in respect of No. 51, Bonham Strand.

Mr. A. Rumjahn minuted—What about the other requirements? The height of the building should not exceed one and a quarter times the width of the street.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. E. A. HEWETT, the application was granted.

#### OTHER APPLICATIONS.

Applications respecting the sale and preparation of food were then dealt with.

#### MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended the 10th December, death rate per 1,000 per annum, showed the following figures:—British and foreign civil population, 15.4; corresponding week last year 15.5; previous week, 41.1. Chinese community, 17.5; corresponding week last year, 15.2; previous week, 16.2.

#### LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The Limewashing Return for the fortnight ended the 20th inst. showed that 2,981 houses had been attended to in the Central District, and 1,598 houses in the Western District.

#### RAT RETURN.

During the week ended the 26th inst. 394 rats were caught at Hongkong, including 94 plague infected rats; and 200, including 3 infected, at Kowloon.

## SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, 27th December.

### IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

THE PO YIK FIRM V. AU CHUN SANG AND OTHERS.

This was a claim for \$264.79 made by the Po Yik firm, rice merchants, 172, Wing Lok Street, against Au Chun Sang, Au Yeung Shan and Au Yeung Cheong *alias* Au Yung, formerly partners in the late Tai Lung firm, of No. 356, Des Voeux Road West, on account of goods sold and delivered. The plaintiff also claimed the costs of the action.

Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for the plaintiff firm; Mr. B. Blaw for the third defendant; and Mr. Otto Kong Sing for the first defendant. The second defendant was not represented, and was absent from court when the case was called.

Mr. Thomson said the only question was whether the defendants had been really partners in the Tai Lung firm. He would prove that they had been, and that the second

defendant was the managing partner. They had made payments to the plaintiff firm on various occasions, but when a member of the plaintiff firm visited the Tai Lung firm to collect money on the 31st October he found the shop closed and only the second defendant on the premises. The second defendant gave full particulars as to who were partners in the Tai Lung firm. The third defendant subsequently, with reference to payment of the money owed by the defendants to the plaintiff firm, said he owned but a small share in the business, and would have to see the others first.

His Honour, after hearing the evidence, found the defendants to be partners in the Tai Lung firm, and he gave judgment for the plaintiff firm with costs.

#### THE HO FAT KEE V. LI KAN TAI.

The plaintiff in this action claimed \$150 plus \$10.50, \$10 being costs and \$0.50 expense on account of a bailiff. Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared on behalf of the plaintiff firm of contractors, doing business at No. 49, Queen's Road East. The defendant, a junk owner whose junk is under arrest, appeared in person. The plaintiff alleged that the money had been lent by him to the defendant.

The case was adjourned till 2.15 p.m. to-day to subpoena a witness.

Wednesday, 23th December.

### IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

MOOSA E. VIEIRA AND CO. V. THE CHINA EASTERN CONTRACTING CO.

In this case the plaintiff firm, merchants, residing at No. 36, Queen's Road Central, claimed from the defendant firm, merchants, recently of No. 36, Queen's Road Central, \$416.90, \$400 being rent owing to them and \$16.90 costs of the action.

Mr. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) appeared for the plaintiff firm, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant firm.

The \$400 was stated as being three months' rent, at \$130 per month, payable in advance—for October, November and December, and one month's rent in lieu of notice.

Moosa Ebrahim, a partner in the plaintiff firm, said he made the letting arrangements with a representative—Mr. Probasco—of the defendant firm. Mr. Probasco, who said he was a partner in the China Eastern Contracting Co., went into possession in September, and paid the rent for that month in advance. The plaintiff firm had received no rent since. The defendants left the premises on the 12th December. Since that date a distress had been issued on the furniture.

Mr. Dixon said the furniture realised some \$160, so the plaintiffs were now suing only for the balance due.

Cross-examined, witness said he forgot whether he gave a receipt for the rent for September in Mr. Probasco's own name, or in the name of the firm. Mr. Probasco lived on the premises, using one of three rooms as a bedroom and the other two rooms as offices. He did not know when Mr. Probasco's Company was formed; Mr. Probasco said he was going to open a firm.

His Honour said that as the Company was not formed when Mr. Probasco rented the premises, the contract could not be taken to have been made on behalf of the Company. He gave judgment for the defendant firm with costs.

#### THE HO FAT KEE V. LI KAN TAI.

The plaintiff in this action claimed \$150 plus \$10.50, \$10 being costs and \$0.50 expense on account of a bailiff. Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared on behalf of the plaintiff firm of contractors, doing business at No. 49, Queen's Road East. The defendant, a junk owner whose junk is under arrest, was represented by Mr. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office). The plaintiff alleged that the money had been lent by him to the defendant.

The defendant said he had paid the money to Ho Fat, a partner in the Ho Fat Kee shop.

A witness for the defence said he had seen Ho Fat at a quarter to two that afternoon, just outside the Supreme Court, but, instead of

waiting to give evidence, he had gone off in a ricksha with the plaintiff.

Mr. Dixon applied for a remand so that he might try and bring Ho Fat to give evidence.

The plaintiff had previously stated that he was in Mr. Hastings' office between one and two o'clock.

His Honour remanded the case till Friday afternoon, remarking—Injustice is being done somewhere. There is something crooked which I want to get at.

Thursday, 29th December.

### IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

DEUTSCH ASIATISCHE BANK V. THE WUI SHING HING BANK.

The plaintiffs in this action alleged that they had suffered damage by reason of a breach by the defendants of a contract dated the 4th October, 1904, made between the plaintiffs and the defendants, whereby the defendants agreed to purchase from the plaintiffs a sterling draft on London, payable on demand for the sum of £1,000 sterling at exchange 1s. 9½d and which said contract was to complete their purchase on the 30th November, 1904, and the plaintiffs had suffered damages to the extent of \$785.85 by the defendants' breach of their contract. The particulars of the damage were as follows:—

4th Oct by sale of defendants of	
£2,000 at exchange 1s. 9½d	\$21,942.86
30th Nov. to cost of £2,000 at	
exchange 1s. 10 11/16d	\$21,157.02

Difference ..... \$ 785.84

The Wui Shing Bank was of No. 102, Wing Lok Street, Hongkong, Bankers. The plaintiffs also sued for costs of the action.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. G. G. (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff bank; and Mr. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. G. K. H. Brutton's office), for the defendant bank.

Mr. Pollock, after detailing the particulars given above, said that he had been given to understand that the defence which the defendants intended to raise in the action was that the man called Li Yuk Chi, who entered into the contract on behalf of the defendant bank with the plaintiff bank, had no authority from the defendant bank to enter into the contract with the plaintiff bank. Assuming that was so, he thought he would be able to prove otherwise. Regarding that man, he would refer His Honour to certain contracts by him with the plaintiff bank, and, secondly, with the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China; and he would also be able to call evidence to show that various other transactions had been carried out by him as agent for the defendant bank with two firms of Chinese merchants. All these transactions were in connection with drafts or bills-of-exchange. The law on the matter was clear:—if a bank held out that anybody was their agent they were liable for the acts of that person, though it might be that the person intended to cheat his principal and benefit his own pocket. At the end of November or early in December, he might mention, the defendant bank shut up—and Li Yuk Chi had run away. They stopped business altogether. He was able to call witnesses from the plaintiff bank to show that after a letter had been sent to the defendant bank saying "the sterling draft is due to-morrow," a shroff went to the defendant bank, in Wing Lok Street, on the 29th November, and had a conversation with a "cock-eyed" man named Li Shing *alias* Li Shin, a partner in the defendant bank, as follows:—"As the sterling draft will be due to-morrow, and as you have received our letter, you should chop our chit book"—"I need not chop your chit book"; "You must"—"I will take delivery to-morrow." That showed that on the 29th November there was a clear recognition of this sterling draft for £2,000, and the defendants recognised their liability. He would also be able to show that a certain offer of settlement was made on behalf of the defendant bank in connection with this and some other drafts.



Mr. Ferrers objected to the form of contract, saying that it was an unstamped, broker's note.

Mr. Pollock contended that, though the word "Broker" was printed on the paper, it was not a broker's note at all; it was not signed by a broker.

Mr. Ferrers submitted that it was, but even if it was not the document should have been stamped.

Mr. Pollock said that Mr. Ferrers was arguing under Ordinance 13 of 1902, having reference to brokers' notes—the sale of merchandise through a broker. Regarding the second objection, he could find no rule preventing this particular document being stamped afterwards.

His Honour took it that the document was not a broker's note, and for the present would regard it otherwise.

Evidence was led.

The case was adjourned.

### THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON MANUFACTURING CO., LD.

The ninth annual general meeting of this company was held at Shanghai on Dec. 21st. It was reported by the *N.-C. Daily News* as follows: Thea were present Mr. C. Rayner, (vice-Chairman), presiding, Messrs. W. H. Poate and J. N. Jameson (Directors), G. Wuileumier (Secretary), G. B. Burgoyne, L. Midwood, C. Selby Moore, and J. M. Young, Lin Chang-yen, and See Ming-yue—representing 3,077 shares.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

The Chairman—Owing to the indisposition of our Chairman, Mr. J. L. Scott, it becomes my duty, gentlemen, to address you to-day. The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days, and with your permission we will take them as read. As already stated in the report the war in the North, dear money, and the general political uncertainty have greatly interfered with the successful working of the mill. We have also had difficulties to contend with in the reorganisation of our mill staff,—these difficulties have, however, been overcome, and I think I may confidently say that the mill is now being worked in a very real and efficient manner. After careful consideration, your directors have found it advisable to recommend you to dispose of the accumulated balance at credit of profit and loss account as stated in the report, with a considerable portion of our share and debenture capital unissued it is impossible to distribute any of these accumulated earnings by way of dividends and to carry them forward in profit and loss account might tend to raise false hopes in that respect. Of the Taels 50,000, which we propose to place to reserve account, the sum of Taels 31,669.87 is actually invested in first-class securities of the debenture trustees. It is our intention to continue to place a portion of our future earnings to reserve account until a working capital has been accumulated sufficient for the proper running of the mill. Our buildings, plant, and machinery have been kept in first-class condition out of revenue at an expense during the year of Tls 19,000, and I should like to draw your attention to the fact that when the profit and loss entries recommended in the report have been made, we shall have written off Tls. 137,753, equal to about 19 per cent of the initial cost of our plant and machinery which, however, your directors do not consider too much.

Mr. Selby Moore—Before we proceed to pass the accounts I wish to make a few remarks. Before actually touching the accounts themselves may I be permitted to place on record my own (and, I should think, most shareholders') disappointment at the lamentable result of the year's working. Last year the result of the year's working was considered disappointing, but after the Chairman's remarks at the annual meeting I felt that better times were in store for us and that at last we had turned the corner and were, if not within sight of a dividend, at least on the high road to it. What do we now find? This mill, which has now been running some ten years, equipped with modern machinery and presumably overseen by competent men, passes out of its sickly infancy into a more sickly youthhood, and one trembles to think what its old age will be. Now there must be something radically wrong to account for this, and it is the duty of the directors to right that wrong. We

used to be told that it was lack of capital; no doubt that had something to do with it, but we cut down the par value of our shares and rearranged our finances, but we are no better off, and I think we must look elsewhere for the cause. To turn to accounts the net profit for 1902 was Tls. 91,220; for 1903 Tls. 26,159; this year it was Tls. 14,223, surely a falling off of which we have had no reasonable explanation. With this year's report we find the war, coupled with our old friends, tight money and high cost of cotton, made the scapegoats; as regards the former I think I am right in saying that as a result of the war we have had a demand for piece goods that we do not often experience, and as far as I can gather cotton yarn must have benefited also. As regards the Russo-Chinese Bank overdraft account, I notice with regret that the directors have been unable to reduce this very heavy item beyond a paltry Tls. 1,600, notwithstanding that new debentures to the extent of Tls. 27,600 have been taken up. How can we expect the public to put their money into these debentures as long as we are under such a very heavy obligation to the Bank? Loan account, Tls. 80,000; this is a new account, and I think the directors have strained every nerve before committing the company to further indebtedness; it means more interest, and, as it is, we find the life blood of the concern used to pay our enormous interest bill, which has risen in the last three years from Tls. 33,454 to Tls. 42,674. On the other side of the balance-sheet I have only to refer to two items viz: (first) stocks on hand. Considering the directors admit the difficulty of trading in times of tight money and dear cotton, when economy and a careful husbanding of the company's resources were of primary importance, we find they have launched out in stock to the enormous extent of Tls. 202,877. I think I am right in saying that that is a higher figure than any we have ever had since the mill severed its connection with the American Trading Company, and in view of the position of cotton I think the directors have made a grave error in so doing. A hand-to-mouth policy was surely the safest line to pursue until we have plenty of working capital or a phenomenally low price of cotton should tempt us to speculate. The second item I wish to refer to is the ginning mill, standing in the books at Tls. 15,000. I asked at a previous meeting whether the working of the ginning plant might not be so reported in the accounts that shareholders might judge whether it is a valuable adjunct to the mill or not. This has not been done; we can only presume that the ginning mill at least pays its way, but I should like to find out whether it is worth to us the Tls. 15,000 that we value it at. Does it pay us eight per cent. on its book value, or, if not, can we realise Tls. 15,000 for it. I wish to detain you for just one moment more. I want to ask another question; whether it is a fact that Chinese cotton is bought in Shanghai, and directly shipped to Japan, paying freight and export duty, spun there and returned to Shanghai, which means another freight and an import duty; whether such yarn can and does compete successfully with our spinnings, and whether, if such is the case, the directors are taking any steps to find out how it is done. In conclusion I have only to refer to one more matter that I would much rather not have touched upon, but the Chairman having failed to refer to it, I must. It has been our custom to hold our annual meeting in the month of November; this year I am given to understand the reason that we are a month late, is that both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were absent from Shanghai, revealing an indifference toward the company's affairs that I think greatly to be deplored.

The Chairman, replying first to Mr. Moore's final remark, regretted that the meeting was held later than usual, but the postponement was caused by the unfortunate illness of the Chairman (Mr. J. L. Scott) and the fact that he (the Vice-Chairman) was away on holiday when Mr. Scott fell sick. In regard to the importation of yarns from Japan at cheap rates, the directors had been doing their best to meet the competition, but owing to the high protective tariff in Japan, the manufacturers there were able to dump their surplus, which was practically a bounty-fed yarn, on the China coast. The company seemed to hold large stocks as Mr.

Moore had said, but the stocks represented purchases to cover sales already made at a profit; the directors considered it the proper course to cover their sales in that way rather than risk the market.

Mr. Moore said he was quite in agreement with the Chairman on that point.

The Chairman said in regard to the ginning mill it was hardly to be expected that the directors would give publicly the details of its working, but the mill represented a splendid investment; if Mr. Moore cared to call on the Secretary next morning he could obtain all the details he required.

The following resolutions were then carried without further comment:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Poate: That the report and accounts as presented be accepted and passed.

Proposed by Mr. Jameson, seconded by Mr. Liu Chang-yen. That Mr. J. L. Scott be re-elected a director.

Proposed by Mr. Selby Moore, seconded by Mr. Young: That Mr. A. R. Leake be re-elected auditor.

The meeting then terminated.

### THE EWO COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LD.

The report presented at the ninth ordinary meeting held at Shanghai on December 23rd, was as follows:—

The General Managers submit a statement of accounts to 31st October, 1904, showing the result of twelve months' working to that date.

At the opening of the financial year in November, 1903, cotton could be bought on reasonable terms, but it gradually advanced in price up to April, from which date the higher level established was maintained until August, supported chiefly by heavy demand for export caused by the shortage in the American crop. Notwithstanding this, the Mill production was sold at a profit for the first six months, when owing to the outbreak of hostilities between Japan and Russia our Northern outlets were practically closed to us, and with accumulating stocks and interest thereon profits disappeared.

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account, including the sum brought forward from 1st year, amounts to Tls. 12,844.76, which it is proposed to carry forward to next account.

Consulting Committee.—In accordance with Article XVII, the members of the Consulting Committee retire, but all are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

Auditor.—During the absence of Mr. Geo. R. Wingrove, the accounts of the Company have been audited by Mr. W. H. Anderson on his behalf. The re-election of Mr. Wingrove to the position of Auditor requires the confirmation of the shareholders.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co,  
General Managers.

Shanghai, 6th December, 1904.

The accounts are as follows:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT	
For the year ended 31st October, 1904.	
LIABILITIES.	
Capital—Authorised 20,000 shares at Tls. 50—Tls. 1,000,000; subscribed 15,000 at Tls. 50	750,000.00
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	272,000.00
Accounts payable	13,346.27
Uncollected dividend	2,308.00
Sundry creditors	2,947.35
Profit and loss	12,844.76
	Tls. 1,053,946.38

ASSETS.	
Property	Tls. 133,689.85
Buildings	292,381.42
Plant	367,893.54
Water supply	4,221.81
Furniture	3,443.37
Mill stores	14,107.79
Cotton stock	36,792.46
Cotton yarn in process	43,796.73
Yarn stock	116,645.66
Unexpired fire insurance premia	5,273.63
Rates and taxes	419.15
Accounts receivable	19,004.42
Advances against seed cotton	11,339.10
	Tls. 1,053,946.38



## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls.
To interest .....	38,815.50
To fire insurance .....	16,181.78
To rates and taxes .....	7,435.39
To repairs and renewals .....	10,245.28
To directors' fees .....	3,000.00
To auditor's fee .....	250.00
To General Managers' commission on net profits 10 per cent. on Tls. 1,321.92 ..	132.19
	12,844.76

Tls. 83,076.90

Cr.	Tls.
By balance from last year .....	11,655.03
By balance of working account .....	71,137.30
By transfer fees .....	66.14
By excess provision in last year's account for legal expenses, etc., in connection with reduction in capital .....	218.43

Tls. 83,076.90

## THE PERAK SUGAR CULTIVATION CO., LD.

We are indebted for the following report to the *N.-C. Daily News*.—The nineteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders in this Company was held at Shanghai on Decr. 19th. There were present: Messrs. W. D. Little (Chairman), F. Anderson, A. S. P. White-Cooper, and J. H. McMichael, Directors; Leonard Kerr, Secretary; J. M. Young, A. E. Jones, R. H. Gore-Booth, and G. T. Veitch, representing in all 1,345 shares.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said—The report, which has been in the shareholders' hands for about a fortnight, deals very fully and in detail with the operations of the Company during the past season. I propose that the report should be taken as read. The results of the year's working have been disappointing, owing mainly to the shortness in the supply of labour. It is some satisfaction to know that, in this important matter of estate equipment, the manager's difficulties have been overcome. The labour supply is now ample. One effect of insufficient labour during last season is that the new crop is smaller in area than that just completed; it is hoped, however, that the shortage in area will be balanced by a higher rate of production per acre. A favourable feature in the report, to which I draw attention, is the great increase in the proportion which No. 1 sugar bears to the whole output. It may be remembered that only a few years ago the proportion of No. 1 sugar barely exceeded 75 per cent; this year it is practically 95 per cent, and it is hoped that during this present season the proportion will be still further increased, with some prospect of the No. 2 grade being entirely eliminated. The Directors have received a long and interesting report from Sir Charles Dudgeon, who made a very thorough inspection of all departments, and you will be glad to know that he was very well satisfied with all he saw. Referring to the rubber plantation, Sir Charles reports that this is now an imposing grove of trees, between 30 to 40 feet high, covering an area of about 160 acres. The trees, he says, are looking excellent and the manager hopes to start tapping a few next April; in the following year there should be about 6,000 ready for tapping, and in 1907, 15 to 16 thousand. This venture, which may have an important bearing on the future of the Company, is in the experimental stage so far as the Malay Straits are concerned; it has, however, cost very little. At Klompong the area under cane for the new crop is still a long way short of the capacity of the plant; progress in this respect having been retarded by the labour question. I hope that this season a considerably larger area may be brought under cane, and with the improved condition of the market for basket sugar, this estate should contribute, as it has not hitherto done, to the Company's profits. Passing on to the accounts, the Company's assets are practically the same as they were this time last year. Mention has been made before, and it may be well to remind you, that owing to the careful writing down in the past of the book value of the Gula machinery, this now stands amongst the Company's assets at little more than one-fourth of its actual value. The Klompong plant is

comparatively new, having just completed its third year of working, and is reported to be in good condition. Working expenditure shows some increase as compared with last year. It is expected that during the present season some economies may be effected, under the heading of repairs and renewals, which include this year the cost of a new boiler to replace one thrown out, and in manufacturing expenses. Regarding the division of the balance in Profit and Loss account, the Directors regret that they are unable to recommend a larger dividend than 5 per cent.

In conclusion, the Chairman said that he was willing to answer any questions that any shareholder might choose to ask.

Mr. A. E. Jones asked if any idea could be given of the amount of rubber that the trees would produce.

The Chairman replied that each tree should produce half-a-pound of rubber at the end of the first year and from two to three pounds at the end of ten years.

Mr. Jones asked for some information as to the price of rubber.

The Chairman said that rubber was at present quoted at about five shillings per pound. The Company had used for this experiment what was simply waste ground and their only expense was labour and the cost of seed; therefore, if the venture turned out a failure, there would be little expense.

The Chairman proposed, Mr. J. H. McMichael seconded, and it was carried unanimously: "That the report and accounts as presented be accepted and passed."

Mr. J. H. McMichael proposed, Mr. F. Anderson seconded, and it was carried unanimously: "That a dividend of five per cent, equal to Tls. 2½ per share, shall be declared for the season ending the 31st December, 1904."

Mr. J. M. Young proposed, Mr. G. T. Veitch seconded, and it was carried unanimously: "That Mr. F. Anderson be re-elected a director of the Company."

Mr. A. E. Jones proposed, Mr. R. H. Gore-Booth seconded, and it was carried unanimously: "That Mr. G. R. Wingrove be re-elected auditor and that his remuneration be fixed at Tls. 250 per annum."

The Chairman proposed, Mr. A. S. P. White-Cooper seconded, and it was carried unanimously: "That the next annual general meeting of shareholders of the Company shall be held during the month of December, 1905."

This concluded the business of the meeting.

## DISTRESSED SAILORS AT HONGKONG.

Twelve sailors belonging to the wrecked s.s. *Workfield* arrived here from Swatow by the s.s. *Haitan*, and seventeen arrived by the s.s. *Hung Sang*. When a *Daily Press* representative went to see them at the Sailors' Home on the 29th inst. Capt. Broadhead, the skipper of the wreck, was paying off his crew in the shipping office. Some of the men were unshaven, and said that the only clothes they had saved were those they wore. Taking them as a body they were an unruly looking crowd, and some of them spoke to the captain in such an insolent manner that the Shipping Master sent for the police. The captain refused to give the *Daily Press* any information, saying—I have to tell the Board of Trade first. Our reporter interviewed the sailors; the facts, as he gathered them, are as follows:—

The *Workfield* was on a voyage to Hongkong for orders with a cargo of Welsh coal. The vessel came out via the Cape of Good Hope, thus avoiding Suez Canal dues. In due course she arrived off the China coast, and is supposed to have struck a rock four miles to the north and east of Turtle Rock, which is situated off Kupchi Point. The chart shows no rock in this position. A sailor described the occurrence thus—We struck at three o'clock on Christmas Eve, and then kept right on. For the first hour or so the ship did not show much signs of making water, but afterwards she started filling up very quickly in No. 2 hold. The water was gaining so rapidly, causing the vessel to go down by the head, that we raised the water-tight doors just enough for the bilge-injection to get a supply, so as to be able to make full use of the pumps. The ship, nevertheless, gained water steadily,

till the engine room started filling up, putting out the fires and making things dangerous [It is reported that the firemen refused to stay in the engine room under the conditions]. We abandoned the ship, taking to the life-boats, at between two and three o'clock on Christmas morning. When we shoved off the bow was deep in the water and the stern sticking up; she was fast filling. We remained in the boats till daylight, when the vessel sank [The vessel is supposed to have sunk in from sixteen to seventeen fathoms of water, Good Hope Cape bearing north-west, distant fifteen miles]. We then turned towards the shore, beaching the boats by pulling through the surf. When we landed natives gathered around, and seemed to regard us as if we were some curious wild animals. The rascals managed to steal the few rags of clothes that some of us had saved. The light-house keeper from Good Hope Cape then came over the hills, took us to his place and treated us well. He had no beds for us, but he did everything in his power to make us comfortable. He managed to signal the N.D.L. s.s. *Samsen*. She stopped and took us on board. That was at about 7 a.m. on the 26th. We arrived at Swatow on Tuesday, and were afterwards brought on to Hongkong by other steamers. No lives were lost.

The *Workfield* had between five and six thousand tons of coal on board. Her owner was W. R. Rea, of Belfast, and she was a steel vessel of 2,769 tons, built in 1901. The officers are as follows:—F. Shields, chief engineer; J. H. Rogers, second engineer; H. Baillie, third engineer; M. Hull, fourth engineer; J. G. Crone, first mate; S. J. Connolly, second mate; and J. Hopkins, third mate.

## HONGKONG.

During the Christmas festivities an inebriated Jack Tar was taken to No. 7 Police Station, where he accosted the Inspector on duty. "Say, boss, is this the Sailors' Home?" "No," replied the Inspector, "but it has been the home of many a sailor."

Seventeen subscription griffins arrived from Shanghai by the s.s. *Hung Sang*. They were drawn for at Kennedy's Stables:—Mr. MacDonald, two; Mr. Houston, two; Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, two; Mr. Potts, two; Messrs Owen, Babington, Peter, Forrest, J. A. Jupp, Cruickshank, Chater and Mody, one each.

On Dec. 29th night there was an unusually brilliant assemblage at the City Hall, on the occasion of the Amateur Dramatic Club's annual fancy dress ball. Adequate and entirely satisfactory arrangements had been made by Mr. Secretary Mitchell. The floor was in fine order, the music fair, and nearly three hundred dancers thoroughly enjoyed the event. There were many capital costumes.

Four time-expired employees at the Naval Yard, Messrs. Gray, Hedge, Varcoe and Bull, received presentations the other evening from their Naval Yard colleagues. Mr. Gray—an inspector of fitters—and Mr. Hedge—a storehouse-man—left for home by the C.P.R. mail steamer yesterday. Mr. Varcoe—a boilermaker—and Mr. Bull—a founder—leave for home on Saturday.

A Crown Lands sale was held at the Public Works Department Dec. 28, when Marine Lot No. 289, after keen competition, was knocked down to Messrs. Yeung Lai Ngan and Fung Chun Yuen for \$128,200, being \$14,506 above the upset price: R. B. Lot No. 119, at Deep Water Bay, was sold to the Green Island Cement Company for \$806, being \$20 above the upset price.

The Rev. Fr. P. de Maria, pro-vicar-Apostolic in Hongkong, received a telegram from Milan on December 28th stating that the Right Reverend Luigi M. Piazzoli, R. C. Bishop of Hongkong, was dead. Monsignor Piazzoli was medically advised to proceed to Europe some months ago. He has had a very brilliant career. He was born in Italy in 1845; studied at Milan; and came to the Far East in 1869. After spending twenty-two years in the interior of China he came to Hongkong in 1892; and was made Bishop of Hongkong in 1895. He was both respected and popular. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated this morning; and there will be a special service on the third day.



The steam launch *Wing Loi* collided with a sampan on December 28th close to the s.s. *Telemachus* at West Point. The sampan was capsized and the occupants thrown into the water, one boy being drowned, and another boy and girl picked up by the crew of the *Telemachus* in an exhausted condition. While awaiting the arrival of an ambulance the officers of the above ship rendered first aid. The children were then conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital. Another collision, in which, fortunately, no fatalities resulted, was caused by the s.s. *Whampoa* running into a small boat and cutting it in two. The occupants were all rescued by the Police pinnace.

His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., entertained several guests at Government House on the 29th instant. The band of the German flagship *Furst Bismarck* was in attendance. This is the first concert of this description given at Hongkong. Those who took part in the programme were as follows:—Mr G. P. Lammert (song), Mrs. Kruger (song), Miss Henriette Murkens (violin solo), Messrs. Kruger, Lammert, Wacker and Konig (vocal quartette), Miss Merrylees (pianoforte solo), Mrs. Fullerton (song), Miss Brown (violin solo), Mrs. Marty (song), Miss Henriette Murkens (violin solo), Mr. F. Austin (song), Miss Shelton Hooper and Mr. A. G. Ward (pianoforte duet), Mr. W. E. Schmidt (song) and Miss Merrylees (pianoforte solo). It is hoped that H. E. the Governor will hold many more such concerts.

No. 7 Police Station wore a gay appearance on Dec. 28, for the Police ball. The courtyard was brightly lighted up by Chinese lanterns. The ballroom was prettily decorated. On the walls were placards, mostly humorous, and quite unlooked for from the police themselves. One said "Success to our Captain and his lady; others reading: "The model Bobby always one minute late," and "Can never be found when he's wanted." Inspector Collett, who acted as president of the Committee in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Hanson, looked after the various wants of the guests. Other members of the Committee who worked hard to make the dance a success were: Sgt. MacDonald (Secretary), Sgts. Watt, Lee, Clyde and Hedge, and P. (S. Williams, Cooper, Parr, Shepherd, Haves and Pitt. Sgt. Gaunt acted as M. C. and dancing went merrily till an early hour this morning.

Mr. Aratoon Seth, Registrar of Companies, notifies that, in three months from the 17th instant, the following companies will, unless cause is shown to the contrary, be struck off the Register, and the companies will be dissolved, viz.:—Man Wo Fung Co., Ltd., Hio-go Gas Co., Ltd., Shun Hung Steam-boat Co., Ltd., Shanghai Oil Co., Ltd., Wuhu Rice Flour Mill Co., Ltd., Hongkong and West River Steam-boat Co., Ltd., Canton Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., Wing Lee Steamship Co., Ltd., Kai Hong Steam-boat Co., Ltd., Yokohama Steam-Laundry Co., Ltd., Po On Steam-launch Co., Ltd., Po Hing Co., Ltd., Po Chai Steamship Co., Ltd., Canton Property Investment Co., Ltd., Wing Yuen Steamship Co., Ltd., China Steamship Company of Canton and Hongkong, Ltd., Tientsin Electric Lighting and Traction Co., Ltd., Hongkong Necropolis Co., Ltd., China Commercial Steamship Co., Ltd., Hongkong Lithographic Co., Ltd., and the Ping On Co., Ltd.

At present there are thirty-seven unemployed officers and eighty unemployed sailors at the Sailors' Home. These figures include twenty-one sailors and seven officers belonging to the wrecked steamer *Workfield*. These men have been paid off and their expenses are being paid by the Board of Trade until they are sent home to England as distressed British seamen. The figures also include about twenty members of the crew of the s.s. *Salfordia*—men who refused to go to Vladivostok in the vessel. The men amuse themselves by playing billiards, bagatelle and cards. There is also a gymnasium and piano in both the sailors' and officers' quarters. The accommodation—bath-rooms, bed-rooms, etc.—is really very good, and the grounds of the building, laid out with flowers, are very attractive. Yesterday Capt. A. Milroy, the Superintendent of the Home, employed a number of European beachcombers to scrub the church down, clean the rails, do some painting and various odd jobs. The men seemed pleased and grateful for the employment.

A bird fancier was before the Police Court on December 27th to answer a charge of hawking without a licence. His wares—consisting of four coops of fowls—were brought along with him and placed outside the door of the large Court. As Mr. Gompertz was busily engaged deciding facts in cases, he was frequently disturbed by the loud crowing of several cocks, and at length ordered their removal. A Chinese constable, in the execution of this duty, happened to break one of the coops, and the fowls got out. Then followed a worse commotion than ever.

Wong Yueng, a coolie, bolted with a bag of \$500 in Queen's Road Central on Dec. 27th. The evidence showed that two Chinese gentlemen went to a money changer's to change a \$1,000 bill into subsidiary coins. The money changer gave them a bag containing \$500, which after examining and finding correct, they placed on the counter. They were busy examining a second bag containing a similar amount when Wong snatched the money on the counter and ran away, followed by an Indian watchman. He took a ricksha and urged the coolie along Queen's Road. The runner was, however, not lengthening the distance between the pursued and pursuers, so the defendant dispensed with his services and took another ricksha. This coolie made the pace warm, but unfortunately for Wong, the vehicle capsized, and he was thrown on to the road, where he was caught by the watchman, and given in charge. On appearing before His Worship he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a term of three months' hard labour, and in lieu of one day of the said imprisonment, six hours' public exposure in the stocks.

#### FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

It is announced in the *Gazette* that the King has granted unto Mr. Walter Dening authority to accept and wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the Imperial Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, conferred upon him in recognition of valuable services rendered by him to the Emperor of Japan in his capacity of Professor of English Literature in the Second High School at Sendai.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—The leakage of documents from Chinese yamens is constant and universal, but it has seldom been as noticeable as it is in the case of the Taotai's yamen at the present time. Copies of letters and despatches appear in the native Press sometimes before they have reached the people to whom they are addressed, and there seems to be little or no control exercised over the underlings in the yamen.

The *Foochow Echo* says: We have to chronicle another quiet but pretty wedding which took place at the British Church on Dec. 15 when the Rev. J. Hind and Miss Carpenter, both of the C. M. S. Mission, were bound for aye with the *vincula matrimonii*. Mr. Pakenham-Walsh acted as organist, and Archdeacon Wolfe and Rev. L. Lloyd performed the ceremony. The happy couple left shortly after for Sharp Peak, where the honeymoon is to be spent.

A Tokyo journalist writes of recent shilly-shally tactics that abound in farcical incidents. The leaders of the Seiyukai and the Progressives had a conference with the Cabinet on Dec. 14th when the Cabinet assented to another curtailment of one million yen in the Budget, and the Minister of War assented to retrenchment to the extent of Yen 500,000 in the settlement, not in the Budget. The Parliamentary understrappers pretend, of course, to assume a stalwart attitude, but a menace of dissolution is always effective. Count Matsukata, G.C.M.G. formerly Premier and Minister of Finance several times, says that the war finances depend upon the co-operative prosecution of public bonds with increased taxation. Those who are opposed to increased taxation in war time were not entitled to speak on war finances, and those who were solely anxious in regard to the effect of the increased taxation on the productive industries were still less worthy of doing so. Count Matsukata believes that free trade is out of date, and ridicules its supporters.

#### TRADE ITEMS.

The Japanese Government is going to start a tobacco factory at Nagasaki on February 1st. For a Chinese hosiery manufactory at Canton, about twenty Japanese experts are being engaged.

There was talk at Manila of sending an ocean tug to look for the overdue steamer *Legaspi*, which was supposed to have been disabled and driven before the monsoon.

Messrs. Gregor & Co. ask us to contradict a rumour that their firm is being run by a Chinese syndicate. We do so willingly, having already published the names of the principals interested.

The Mexican currency is to be finally abolished in the Philippines this New Year. On and after January 1st, a licence (costing ten thousand pesos) will be required in order to sell Mexican money, according to the *Cable News*.

*Le Courrier d'Haiphong* announces that a company has been formed at Hanoi by M. Bert, a French civil engineer, for the electric lighting of Macao and Cholon. It is understood that the capital of the concern amounts to \$600,000.

The Japan papers were misled in reporting that the big life insurance claim at Yokohama (for yen 23,000) was against the New York Life. It appears that a Court official was responsible for the mistake. It now appears that the company concerned was the Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York. As we published the item from the Japan papers, we must publish this correction.

This item appeared in the *Peking Times*: "The Japanese have bought 2,000,000 Dutch cheeses at Gouda—for food, not for ammunition.—This is a curious order, however, as the Japanese have no liking for cheese and abhorred even its smell a few years ago." In view of the quality of the Gouda cheese sold in Japanese stores a few years ago, we are inclined to think there must be something in the ammunition theory.

The French river steamer *Charles Hardouin* resumed her run on the Hongkong-Canton river service Dec. 27. The *Paul Beau* is to follow this evening, a regular service having been recommenced. The vessels, built in France, were formerly run by M. Jean Travaux. The Messageries Maritimes are agents for the new company, which bears the builder's name—"Compagnie Francaise de Navigation et des Constructions Navales," the head office being at Paris. The firm also contemplates running steamers to Wuchow, and later, perhaps, another taking in Macao.

It is stated that, at the Weihaiwei gold mines, for the first eleven days of December two hundred and ninety-four oz. (294 oz.) of amalgam was collected and reduced down to bullion at 26 per cent, giving seventy-six and a half (76½) oz. of gold. The loss on the tailings was reduced from two and a half dwts. to one dwt. per ton, and the quantity of concentrates was increased from one ton to one and a half tons per day. The concentrates average about one oz. fifteen dwt. per ton (1 oz. 15 dwt). This result gives a little over 100 per cent. better results than the November crushing and leaves room for further improvement.

The *Sinwampo* states that the Shangpu has assented to the proposal of Shantung gentry to mark out commercial settlements in Chouts'un and Weihien, where foreigners may reside and trade, but that it is stipulated that there shall be no perpetual leases granted to foreigners as in Treaty ports; only temporary leases for a certain number of years, liable to renewal on expiration. Furthermore, no landholder can sell his land to foreigners, and poor natives desiring to sell their lands within the Settlement in question must sell to the official Land Bureau.

His Highness Prince Aziz Hassan, of Egypt, arrived at Kongmoon on Saturday night, the 17th instant, and the next morning paid a visit to the Chinese city. He was very much delighted in having his fortune told by a Chinaman, in one of the City temples. The Prince was accompanied by Mr. Deveria, of the I. M. Customs, and, coming back from the city, had lunch with Messrs. A. J. Basto and R. Baude, on the Customs Assistant's houseboat. Prince Aziz Hassan was, before leaving Kongmoon, the guest of Mr. Maze, acting Commissioner of Customs.



## COMMERCIAL.

## SILK.

CANTON, 17th December, 1904.—Long-reels.—Have experienced a marked decline on last quotations, with moderate business. Reelers, however, with few exceptions appear in no hurry to sell, and give way slowly, some of them asking the same prices as before and are practically out of the market. From sales made we quote:—Fils. Kwong Ping On 9/11 at \$960; Kwong Ho 10/12 at \$930; Sai Sill Lun 13/15 at \$920; Kwong Lun Hing 11/13 at \$900; Min Tai Cheong 13/15 at \$980; Soey Wo Cheong 11/13-15-14/18 at \$790; On Kee 11/13-15-14/18 at \$790; Yee Wo Lun 13/15 and 14/18 at \$780. Short-reels.—Some spot lots have been sold out during last week; but now dealers in general refuse to meet buyers to the full extent of the concessions asked, \$869 have been paid for Quang Wo Hing 14/16. Waste Silk.—A fair business has been done at irregular prices, with some divergence according to the individual feeling of holders. Dealers are much inclined to make some concessions for "Extra selected unopened" stock of which is very large. Stocks.—Raw Silk: 2,000 Bales.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill and Son's Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, 17th December, states:—The home markets are quite. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 12/3 and in Lyons at fcs. 33.50. Raw Silk.—Practically no business has transpired in Tseates since the date of our last Circular, whilst in Coarse Silks sales have been limited to about 50 bales. Yellow Silk.—Business has been on a fair scale this week. Hand Filatures.—Business has been principally in Shanghai Re-reels this week, about 280 bales having been settled. Steam Filatures.—Very little business doing. Waste Silk.—Business has been done in Long Shanghai B. whole bales at Tls. 25/26 per picul. The quality of this waste is very inferior this season.

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 30th Dec.—The prices are declining, market being dull.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.25 to \$2.30
" Round, good quality	3.85 to 3.90
" Long	4.05 to 4.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.55 to 2.65
" Garden, " No. 1	2.65 to 2.75
" White	4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo	4.45 to 4.55

## COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their coal report of to-day's date, state that four steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 11,500 tons of Japan coal and 3,000 tons of Hongay. Since 16th December 29,700 tons of Japan coal have arrived, all sold. The market is quiet. Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian	\$11.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miki Lump	\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump	\$8.50 to 10.00 ex-ship, steady

## YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong 30th December, says:—To-day marks the close of the Season, and a casual glance at the course of the trade during the past twelve months cannot be out of place.

The year has been an eventful one for the Indian Mill industry. As far as Hongkong is concerned importations show a decrease of 69,030 bales, or 23½ per cent., and sales of 22,966 bales, or 13½ per cent., on those of 1903. The abnormally high prices of both cotton and yarn consequent on the manipulations of the Sully ring in America, and the paucity of supplies of raw cotton are solely responsible for this shrinkage. With the exception of a few occasional lulls in the market, prices, both here and in India, have kept steadily advancing, and if invoice costs are any guide to results, the steady forward purchases of our large and enterprising importers and dealers throughout the season, must show a margin of profit commensurate with the extent and magnitude of their transactions.

To the spinning industry of Bombay, however, the season has been full of vicissitudes, and spinners have gone through a truly anxious time, at least for the first nine months of the year. From the beginning of the year to the end of February several mills stopped working, since then some of them returned to short time. Five mills have been closed during a great part of the year, China has ruled a poor buyer, and prices generally offered have given little or no margin of profit. Again at the close of the year several of the mills have

secured large contracts for the China market as far ahead as July-August delivery to the tune of 8,000 bales, and are working full time. Though want of rain has very much interfered with the forthcoming trade prospects, let us hope that many of the supposed asperities of the year will have been toned down or changed for the better by the time the following Christmas comes round, and that every thing will turn out for the best.

To the cotton trade of India the season has been one of abnormal prosperity the like of which, with its violent fluctuations and extraordinarily high prices, has not been experienced since the days of the American Civil War—exports rising by 30 per cent. in quantity and 68½ per cent. in value.

Our Yarn market is perfectly demoralised, and again business has been confined to urgent requirements for the small wants of the city. A further general fall of \$2 to \$3 in prices has taken place, and no abatement in the downward course is apparent. Dealers are keeping entirely aloof, no offers whatever are obtainable, and our quotations have become quite nominal. The competition amongst importers still continues and the war of rates is unabated.

Local Manufacture—in sympathy with the imported article continues quiet.

Japanese Yarn:—A sale of 200 bales Yellow Joss No. 20s at \$130 is the only business of the fortnight, rates showing a decline of \$2 per bale.

Raw Cotton:—Prices have further dropped down a Dollar per picul, and sales of 30 bales Superfine Bengal at \$26, and of 130 bales Thoongchow at from \$28 to \$27 are reported. New Bengals are now coming in freely and about 1,000 bales are being exported to Kobe. Stocks are 2,000 bales Indian and 500 bales China. Quotations are \$24 to \$26 for Indian, and \$26 to \$28 for Shanghai.

Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 146½ for T/T, and Rs. 146½ for Post. On Shanghai 72, and on Japan 91.

The undernoted business in imported and local yarn is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 16th instant, viz:—

Indian:—The market has been very dull and sales amount only to 2,500 bales, prices showing a fall of one to two taels. Estimated unsold stock 36,000 bales.

Japanese—are weak and sales reported aggregate 2,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 94 to 100 for No. 16s, closing weak.

Local:—Prices tending downwards with little or no business doing.

## PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report, dated Shanghai 22nd December, states:—From all appearances importers are going to have ample opportunity for enjoying the Christmas and New Year holidays, the dealers having already made that their excuse for abstaining from business. So far as fresh forward transactions are concerned that is all very well, for undoubtedly with the present uncertain position of cotton that is the safest thing to do. Importers, however, would feel more comfortable if they saw some improvement in clearances of former purchases, which are accumulating, with every prospect of not a little of the "gilt being knocked off the ginger bread" in the way of interest and storage. It came rather as a shock to the nerves of some when the Japanese authorities had to put some restrictions on the distribution of goods from Newchwang, owing to the detection of war-like material being sent in that guise to the enemy's lines. News was received yesterday, however, that these had now been rescinded, so preparations are being made to send up further supplies. The process appears to be this: Tientsin merchants, who had bought here, have resold to Newchwang dealers and are sending the goods, as fast as the limited tonnage will allow, up to Chin-wang-tao, from whence they go by rail to their destination. Fair supplies of American goods have come in during the last six or seven days, and it is reported the Pacific Mail Company have put on another extra boat from San Francisco to relieve the strain. Looking at results of the regular Auctions, which are practically the only guide at present to the market, importers must certainly be congratulating themselves that they have no available cargo for sale, and once more this method of conducting a regular business is demoralising the market. Native holders who do not want to be left are resorting to the same means of disposing of their goods and are putting the market into a very nervous state. In spite of a decline in cotton to 4 13d. for Mid. American in Liverpool, the Manchester market is reported steadier, and though, undoubtedly, every effort will be made there to take advantage of the slump in the raw material, it is felt that no great quan-

tity can be made beyond what is already booked, which may in time have a reassuring effect here when the Natives come to realise this fact. Egyptian cotton is quoted 7½d. We have not heard of any special change in the New York market. A further decline has taken place in the Yarn market during the last day or so, caused, it is said, by the large cargo bought on by the S.S. Malta. It seems quite superfluous, however, as this lot must be part of the 11,300 bales which was telegraphed some ten or twelve days ago as the total export from Bombay of the previous three weeks, so that subsequent arrivals must show a great falling off.

## SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 30th December, 1904.—During the week under review, the settlements have continued to overshadow the market, and we have but little business to report. The continued rise in the rate of sterling exchange is still exercising a depressing effect, while the Christmas holidays have also assisted to keep the market dull and more or less depressed.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have weakened a little to \$710, at which rate a few shares have been on offer, the market closing steady at that rate with the London rate unchanged £70.10s. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have ruled steadier with buyers and no sellers at \$690. China Traders have changed hands at \$58, and close with buyers. Cantons remain steady at \$250 buyers without any sales to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have declined to \$330 with sales, but close with buyers at that rate. Chinas remain at \$90 with small sales and buyers.

SHIPPING.—Indos, after further sales at \$127 again receded, and a fair number of shares have changed hands at \$126 during the week. At time of closing the market is firmer with buyers at \$218, the latest quotation from Shanghai is Tls. 21, and from London £12. 5s. A demand for shares forward at rather better than equivalent rates is not met. Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue to rule weak with sales and sellers at \$28, China and Manila continue on offer at quotation without sales. A demand for Douglasses at \$38½ has only been partially met, and the stock closes firm at that rate. Star Ferries remain neglected at quotations, with only a small business in the new issue at \$29 to report. Shells have changed hands at 26½ can dividend, closing quiet.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled steadier during the week and sales have been effected at \$22½ and \$227, whilst a forward demand at equivalent rates remains unsatisfied. The market closes fairly steady at \$227. Luzons have slightly improved to \$16.

MINING.—With the exception of a further decline of Raub to \$3½ we have nothing to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampao Docks have steadied slightly and after sales at \$215 are enquired for in a small way at \$216. Kowloon Wharves have buyers at \$111½ with no sales or sellers. New Amoy Docks remain unchanged and without business. Farnhams during the week fell further to Tls. 153, but rallied quickly, and after sales at Tls. 160, 163 and 165 close fairly steady at Tls. 170, which last is the closing quotation in Shanghai.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet at \$147 sellers, and buyers could probably be satisfied at under that rate. Kowloon Lands, West Points and Humphreys remain unchanged and without business. Hongkong Hotels have further declined to \$144 closing with sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—No changes on business to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have changed hands at \$30, and Powells at \$12½. Alhambras are enquired for at \$100. Campbell, Moores at \$40, China Borneos at \$13½, Dairy Farms at \$3, our new issue. China Gas at \$160, and South China Morning Posts at \$21½, while in other stocks under this heading sellers at quotations rule the market.

MEMOS.—Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co., Ltd. call of \$7.50 on shares not fully paid up (new issue) due 2nd January, 1905.



Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
<b>Banks—</b>		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$710 (L'don, £70.10s.)
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$39
B. Shares	28	\$39
Foun. Shares	21	\$10
<b>Insurance—</b>		
Union	\$100	\$690, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$58, sales & buyers
North China	25	Tls. 96, sales & sels.
Yangtze	\$60	\$150
Canton	\$50	\$250, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sales & buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sales & buyers
<b>Steamship Coys.—</b>		
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$28, sale- & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$128, buyers
China and Manila	\$50	\$23, sel. s.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33, sales & buy.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$40, sellers
"  "  "  "	\$5	\$29, sales & sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	26/-, sellers
Do. pref. shares	210	28. 10/-
<b>Refineries—</b>		
China Sugar	\$100	\$227, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$16, buyers
<b>Mining—</b>		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raub	18/10d.	\$31, sellers
<b>Docks, Etc.—</b>		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$216, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$11, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$27, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 103	Tls. 170, buyers
<b>Land and Building—</b>		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$147, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38
West Point Building	\$50	\$59, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$14, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12, sellers
"  "  "  "	\$21	\$4, sellers
Shanghai Land Ins. Co. Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
<b>Cotton Mills—</b>		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 30
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$13
<b>Companies—</b>		
Alhambra Limited	\$200	\$100, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$54
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$13, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$30, buyers c. n.
Geo. Fenwick & Co.	\$25	\$45, sellers [issue
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$30, sales & sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$5	\$9, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$265
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$255, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$155
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
S. C. Morning Post	\$25	\$21, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7
"  "  "  "	\$3	\$4, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$94
"  "  "  "	\$10	\$18
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sellers
William Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$12, sales

VERNON &amp; SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 22nd December, 1904, states:— Since our last there has been a very large business transacted, almost entirely adjusting accounts for the half yearly settlements on the 29th. The principal feature to report has been a very large decline in S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. shares, not by any means relieved by the announcement of a Tls. 5 interim dividend for the half-year ending 31st October to be paid on the 6th January. Such a speedy decline has disorganised our market and makes it very difficult for us to return the actual business done during the week. A fair business has been done in Indo-Chinas also, which remain

steady at last week's rates, and Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats have also to record a decline of Tls. 10. This week has been a very trying one for operators and for brokers. The T. T. rate on London to day is 2/84. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. These were offered to the South at \$715, exchange 70, but were declined. The London quotation is £70. Marine and Fire Insurance.—A single transaction in Yantzes is reported at \$150. Unions the rate is \$710 nominal in the South. China Fires are wanted at \$90. Shipping.—There is practically on change to report since our last issue. Business has been done at Tls. 91, 90, 89, 89, 90 and 90 as the week passed on. For forward delivery 92 for March has been twice booked. Shares are wanted now at the close at Tls. 93. This market maintains an exceptionally steady tone, and we look for higher rates next year. Shanghai tugs have been placed at Tls. 50 for ord. and Tls. 48 preference, with sellers at the close. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., shares. There has been such a very large business done at such very diversified rates that we have no space to go over in detail the week's record. To be brief our market opened with sales at Tls. 169 and 168 December, 174 and 172 1/2 March. These rates were fairly maintained on the average until the dividend was declared yesterday. On the report that Tls. 5 was to be paid on the 6th January, the market immediately dropped to Tls. 164 for December, to be followed immediately afterwards by a further drop to Tls. 160; for January 162 and for March 166 were recorded. We have only to say that at the close the market was extremely weak and we look for lower rates; in fact we hear of unreported transactions at Tls. 160 January. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. These have sustained a fall from Tls. 153 c.n.i. to Tls. 150 for December. The forward market has a weak tendency and we do not think a better price for March could be obtained than the present cash rate. Sugar.—China Sugars, are quoted in the South at \$225 sales. Luzons. We have no market here for this stock; in Hongkong shares are now quoted at \$17 sellers. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds. The funds required for immediate expenses were raised at the informal meeting referred to in our last, and shares which at one time were done at \$8, quickly rose to \$12 without business, on the 15th. On the 16th shares changed hands at \$17, on the 19th at \$17 1/2 was reported, and at this rate shares are quiet, there is no special demand. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. There are small buyers in the market at Tls. 117. Industrial.—Cottons.—Ewo Cotton shares have been placed at Tls. 25. International Cottons have also been done at Tls. 25. Shanghai Gas. A few transactions in very small lots have taken place at Tls. 105. Shanghai Ices are reported at Tls. 20. China Flour. There are a few sellers at Tls. 75 for small lots. Maatschappij &c. in Langkats. On the 15th business opened at Tls. 285 ex. div. for December and 297 1/2 March, to fall on the following day to 282 1/2 December and 295 March. Since then a further decline to Tls. 280 has to be recorded, for March 292 1/2, 291 1/2 and 290. The market is weak at closing. Shanghai Sumatras. A small lot changed hands at Tls. 65 1/2. Stores and Hotels.—Weeks have been placed at \$18. Hall and Holtz have declined to \$25. Mondons are reported at Tls. 10. Hotel des Colonies have changed hands at Tls. 20 December. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Horse Bazaars. There are sellers at Tls. 90. Telephones remain steady at Tls. 68. Loans and Debentures.—6 per cent. Shanghai Land Debentures have been placed at Tls. 95, also Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures, 6 per cent, at Tls. 95.

## EXCHANGE.

FR DAY, 30th December.

## ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/-

## ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	247
Credits 4 months' sight	250 1/2

## ON GERMANY.—

On demand	200
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## ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	48 1/2

## ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	146
Bank, on demand	146 1/2

## ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	146 1/2
Bank, on demand	146 1/2

## ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2

## ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	96 1/2
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## ON MANILA.—

On demand	95
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## ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1 1/2 p.c.p.m.
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## ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	117 1/2
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## ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	11 p.c.p.m.
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## ON SAIGON.—

On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
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## ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	60 1/2
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$10.10

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael \$3.50

GAB SILVER, per oz. 28 1/2

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Prinz Eitel Friedrich, sailed on 23rd December. For Aden:—500 bags sugar. For Suez:—50 cases cassia. For Naples:—100 bales waste silk, 50 bales rattan shaving. For Genoa:—81 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 30 cases essential oil, 2 cases coral. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—5 cases human hair. For Antwerp or Hamburg or Copenhagen:—6 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—112 cases preserves, 5 cases chinaware. For Amsterdam or Rotterdam:—9 cases sundries. For Rotterdam:—6 cases chinaware. For Bremen:—284 rolls matting. For Bremen or Hamburg:—17 rolls chinaware. For Hamburg:—300 bales feathers, 180 rolls matting, 49 bales canes, 47 cases chinaware, 20 cases essential oil, 12 cases feathers, 12 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases human hair, 5 cases paper, 1 case silk. For Copenhagen:—10 cases preserves. For London:—540 rolls matting, 45 bales canes.

Per steamer Tonkin, sailed on 27th December. For Marseilles:—105 bales raw silk, 7 bales waste silk, 28 cases silk piece goods, 352 packages provisions, 14 packages human hair, 5 packages hats, 14 packages ylang ylang oil, 1 package feathers, 8 packages sundries. For Lyons:—39 bales raw silk. For Milan:—20 bales raw silk. For London:—15 bales raw silk.

## TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 30th December.—Freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to this, 15 cents per picul; to Philippines, 31 cents per picul for small cariers; Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul has been paid for mola-ses. From Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton, 26 candareens per picul offering. Coal freights are weaker. From Moji to this, \$2.10 last; to Singapore, \$2.60 and \$2.50 have been paid, but not more than \$2.30 is now obtainable. Time charters. Several steamers have been closed up north for 9/12 months, at full rates, and the demand continues.

The following are the settlements:—

Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, \$7,500 lump sum. Bjornstjerne Bjornson—Norwegian steamer, 693 tons, one port north coast Java to Hongkong, \$8,500 lump sum.

Phuyen—French steamer, 1,26 tons, Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton, \$10,250 lump sum.

Clara Jeben—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Chinkiang to Canton, \$12,500 in full.

Kamor—Norwegian steamer, 949 tons, Chinkiang to Canton, \$12,000 in full.

Bourbon—French steamer, 907 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 31 cents per picul.

Tjilatjap—Dutch steamer, 2,475 tons, Karatsu to Swatow (part capacity), \$2.60 per ton.

Lincolnshire—British steamer, 2,567 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.60 per ton.

Providence—Norwegian steamer, 693 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.30 per ton.

Dunav—Australian steamer, 2,492 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.30 per ton.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$2.40 per ton.

Congal—Norwegian steamer, 864 tons, monthly, 9 months, at \$5,750 per month.

## FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—46/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus River Freight. To New York (Overland):—Tea G. \$1 1/2 cents per lb. gross plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Taels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.



## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—

## ARRIVALS.

23, Inkum, British str., from Rangoon.  
 24, Carl Menzell, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.  
 24, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.  
 24, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.  
 24, Java, British str., from London.  
 24, Kauor, Norwegian str., from K'notzu.  
 24, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.  
 24, Palamootta, British str., from Rangoon.  
 24, Pel-us, British str., from London.  
 24, Prinsesse Marie, Dan. str., from Singapore.  
 25, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.  
 25, Haiching, British str., from Takao.  
 25, Hailoong, British str., from Coast Ports.  
 25, Itaura, British str., from Rangoon.  
 25, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
 26, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.  
 26, Shahzada, British str., from Wuhu.  
 26, Tonkin, French str., from Japan.  
 26, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.  
 27, Ailsacraig, British str., from Moji.  
 27, Ardova, British str., from Moji.  
 27, Bourbon, French str., from Manila.  
 27, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.  
 27, Else, German str., from Haiphong.  
 27, Esang, British str., from Canton.  
 27, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.  
 27, Kolsichang, German str., from Bangkok.  
 27, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.  
 27, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.  
 27, Mas-a equa, British str., from New York.  
 27, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.  
 27, Sishan, British str., from Shanghai.  
 28, Ascot, British str., from Mororan.  
 28, Australien, French str., from Marseilles.  
 28, Baron Eldon, British str., from Rangoon.  
 28, Dr. H. J. Klaer, Norw. str., from Manila.  
 28, Gisela, Austrian str., from Kobe.  
 28, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.  
 28, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.  
 28, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Swatow.  
 28, Rabi, British str., from Manila.  
 28, Seaward, U.S. transport, from Manila.  
 28, Shimosa, British str., from Yokohama.  
 28, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.  
 28, Tingsang, British str., from Wuhu.  
 28, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.  
 29, Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
 29, China, Austrian str., put back.  
 29, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.  
 29, Glenlogan, British str., from London.  
 29, Hanyang, British str., from Wuhu.  
 29, Kweilin, British str., from Wuhu.  
 29, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.  
 29, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.  
 29, Talisman, Norwegian str., from Palembang.  
 December— DEPARTURES.  
 24, Chilli, British str., for Nagasaki.  
 24, Highlander, British str., for Kobe.  
 24, Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.  
 24, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.  
 24, Pleias, American str., for Tacoma.  
 24, Prinsesse Marie, Dan. str., for Shanghai.  
 24, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.  
 24, Yik-sang, British str., for Swatow.  
 24, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.  
 25, Bawtry, British str., for Tsintan.  
 25, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.  
 25, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Swatow.  
 25, Kowloon, German str., for Chinkiang.  
 25, M. Struve, Norwegian str., for Swatow.  
 25, Nanshan, British str., for Hongay.  
 25, Orange, German str., for Bangkok.  
 25, Samsen, German str., for Swatow.  
 25, Seida, British str., for Chinwantau.  
 25, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Batavia.  
 25, Zweena, British str., for Shanghai.  
 26, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.  
 27, China, Austrian str., for Shanghai.  
 27, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.  
 27, Germania, German str., for Bangkok.  
 27, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.  
 27, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.  
 27, Itaura, British str., for Yokohama.  
 27, Korat, German str., for Bangkok.  
 27, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.  
 27, Manchuria, Amr. str., for San Francisco.  
 27, Shahzada, British str., for Canton.  
 27, Sobralense, British str., for Moji.  
 27, Tean, British str., for Manila.  
 27, Tonkin, French str., for Europe.  
 28, Athenian, British str., for Vancouver.  
 28, Australien, French str., for Shanghai.  
 28, Brunhilde, German str., for Bangkok.  
 28, Elisa, Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.

28, Emma Lynken, German str., from Amoy.  
 28, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.  
 28, Fausang, British str., for Sourabaya.  
 28, Gregory Apar, British str., for Calcutta.  
 28, Medan, German str., for Chemulpo.  
 28, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
 28, Palamootta, British str., for Rangoon.  
 28, Peleus, British str., for Nagasaki.  
 28, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.  
 28, Baron Eldon, British str., for Yokohama.  
 29, Clavering, British str., for Moji.  
 29, Dunav, Austrian str., for Kutchinotzu.  
 29, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.  
 29, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.  
 29, Hsiping, Chinese str., for Haiphong.  
 29, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.  
 29, Java, British str., for Yokohama.  
 29, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.  
 29, Ka-hing, British str., for Kobe.  
 29, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.  
 29, Massapequa, British str., for Shanghai.  
 29, Sithonia, German str., for Yokohama.  
 29, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.  
 29, Tingsang, British str., for Canton.  
 29, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

## PASSENGER LIST.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Rajaburi*, from Bangkok Mr. and Mrs. Freeger, child and servant.

Per *Mausang*, from San lakan, Dr Macleod and Mr. Tarowsky.

Per *Tean*, from Manila, Messrs. E. Brindle, Geo. R. Smith, E. M. Kirkwood, E. F. Miles, L. Aubert, B. H. Scholtzy, Jules Farias, B. H. Macke, E. M. Wood, L. Nelson, Mrs. A. T. Leopold, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Greeftess and child, Messrs. T. Tanaka and Ichie Mattheo.

Per *Chingtu*, from Kobe, Mrs. Schipper, and the Pollard Liputian Opera Company.

Per *Prinsesse Marie*, from Singapore, Mrs. Svenson & four daughters, Miss Friebe, Messrs. Hornemann, Melchior and Hansen.

Per *Hailoong*, from Coast Ports, &c., Capt. Phillips, Mr. T. P. Tinchit.

Per *Palamootta*, from Rangoon, Mr. Brown.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Paymaster E. G. Gudger, U.S.N., Messrs. James Fredrickson, John C. Scrogging, J. M. Clare, E. B. English, P. Healy, James O'Neil, B. F. Jones and T. Miky.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Messrs. C. Moore, J. Lemo, C. H. Kerr, K. Yokoyama, Miyeda, N. Lookinsky, John Baptiste, Fred. Jones, J. A. Remdios, Chater and J. Danon; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. Sasani; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra, Mrs. David and infant, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. and Mrs. Ting, Messrs. Tr. blo Boulart, Hamd Hassan and Mohamed Ali; for Aden, from Shanghai, Messrs. Rizaef and Tagi eff; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Miss Kaptchenkoff; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mrs. Roisin, Mr. Earl H. Lyell, Mr. and Mrs. Bure and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gielen, Messrs. V. Hietard de Lagueie, St. Fort Mortier; from Kobe, Mr. Edward Gunderter; from Shanghai, Messrs. Leopold, Henry Bardy, Gaillard, Henry Van Bergen, Mr. and Mrs. Basquale Radici, Messrs. C. de Kyckman, Colleti Giuseppe, Ducast, Hengues and Tomelat.

Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, Mrs. A. F. Acker, Mr. Homer C. Carleton, Mrs. M. J. H. Chapman, Messrs. W. E. Dougherty, T. W. Greutter, James E. Harvell, E. H. Himrod, F. H. Hollingsworth, Mrs. M. B. Lauver, Miss Lauver, Miss Lauver, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Pallies, Mr. J. S. Piet, Capt. and Mrs. W. B. Williams, and Mrs. M. Marshall; from Honolulu, Mr. C. A. Graham; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Cameron; from Kobe, Mr. Geo. Howell; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Greenburg, Capt. McKay, Messrs. E. Eden, G. Esay and F. E. Shaw.

Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs. Stringer, Vail and Duncan.

Per *Hangsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Messrs. Campbell and Wiltedink.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Rev. Knox, Mr. and Miss Hayes J. Brown, Mrs. Focken, Capt. Broadhead, Messrs. T. G. Crone, S. T. Council, T. Hopkins, F. Shields, T. H. Rodgers, H. T. Bailey, M. Hall, T. Diggle, T. B. Jones, T. Gloss and W. McLellan.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. J. Taysot and A. G. Passmore; from Colombo, Mr. K. Eduljee Vaid; from Singapore, Messrs. Mess and Argyll Robertson;

from Saigon, Rev. Fathers Mathey, Missou, Bellocq and Keller, and Mr. Wilden; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Besse Desmoulieres and 2 children, Mrs. Vera Bronzien and son, Mr. Thillot, Rev. Carlo Ceoli and 2 Fathers, Mr. and Mrs. Trouillet, Mrs. Delval, Messrs. Gatrot and Dierard; from Colombo, Mrs. Goldstein and 2 children, and Mr. Sardari; from Singapore, Messrs. W. Lagro, J. Spitzel, D. Spitzel and M. Spitzel; from Saigon, Messrs. Mascarello, Calvez, Legall, Lorani, Coulon, Choudron and Carpeaux; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Becker, Messrs. Koenigsberg, Matignon and Mounbaron, Sisters Renee and Stephanie; from Djibouti, Mr. Melville; from Singapore, Messrs. Brabrook and F. S. Barker.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wise, Miss Hunter, Messrs. James Ellis, McLaren, Miss Huff, Miss Cotton, Mr. O. Rauff, Miss Paddock, Mr. Ed. F. Ayer, Mrs. Ayer, Messrs. Fran. Pierce and Alexander Jerusalemski.

Per *Whampoa*, from Shanghai, Mr. Renberg.

Per *Glenlogan*, from London, &c., Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Richards, Miss Randere and 2 children, and Mr. Reid.

Per *Anping*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Haptaly, H. Smith and J. Bars.

## DEPARTED.

Per *Roon*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Miss Turner, Miss M. Friedmann, Messrs. C. T. Briggs, Asser, E. Deacon, K. Oldorf, J. M. Brooks, G. T. George, Wheller, E. Redders, A. Perovano, K. M. Sakata, Levell, Smith, Menti, A. Pielsen, St. Pettersen, Korndorfer, and W. Lorenz; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Nose, Agawa, Okawa Teshima, Miss Ohatsu, and Mr. Matsuo; for Kobe, Capt. L. C. Darr; for Yokohama, Mr. E. Bornand.

Per *Manchuria*, for Japan ports, Mrs. P. M. Price, Comd. and Mrs. J. B. Collins, U.S.N., and Miss Isabelle Collins; for San Francisco, Mrs. J. W. Smith, Miss M. A. Bret, Messrs. B. A. Baird, J. S. McLaren and W. C. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Greefken and infant, Messrs. L. S. Blanchett, A. Humphreys, Geo. R. Smith, Miss H. P. Jents, Messrs. V. Smith, W. E. Dempsey, W. R. Henderlong, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Cooke, Mr. T. G. Marshall, Miss Sally Johnson, Mr. H. Van Allen, and Mrs. J. Stevenson.

Per *Tean*, for Manila, Mrs. Kunn, Mr. and Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. Chapman, Col. and Mrs. Ham and child, Messrs. J. E. White and H. J. Carleton, Mrs. Bruckhoff and Biggar, Mr. T. W. Gruether, Mr. and Mrs. French, Messrs. M. A. Graham, N. W. Wynn, Miss Scott, Mrs. Early, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Pallies, Major rosby, Capt. Whitman, Lieuts. J. Welen and W. Smith, Messrs. J. Kernan, K. Komatsu, J. A. Kirby, B. H. Macke, Dr. Woolley, Messrs. J. E. Harvee, P. Reiss, J. R. Piet, W. Dougherty, F. Hollingsworth, Capt. and Mrs. Williams.

Per *Tonkin*, for Saigon, Messrs. Catuba Junea, Jaulet, Ambroise, F. Murakami, and Miss T. Takanashi; for Singapore, Messrs. J. H. Pearson, O. L. Cohen, Miss Werthenien, Mr. Phillips, Miss Watson, Messrs. Walter Grisette, Hendrik Van Merop, Mr. and Miss R. D. Cohen, Mr. L. D. Cohen, Miss F. Yokono, Messrs. Chye Hupp, Johannes Cras and Paolo Vella; for Colombo, Mr. Luiz Gonsalves Forte, Mr. and Miss L. S. Campbell; for Marseilles, Mrs. H. Coleaux, Messrs. Gillard and Brophy, Mr. and Miss J. C. Alcobia, Messrs. Domingo Ferreira, Courtin, Aubert, J. J. D. de Carvalho, Xavier, Leonardo, T. M. T. Connor, Antonio Salvador and Pallier.

Per *Athenian*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. T. Gray, Lord Kelburne, Messrs. O. T. Tuek, Jas. Frederickson, E. F. Fradgley, Mr. and Mrs. Van Ravens, Mrs. H. Mandl, Messrs. E. Suhard, Gudger, P. L. Miller, G. E. Hedge, Miss Eugenia Pasty, Messrs. F. B. English, T. Oka, Mr. and Mrs. S. Yamamoto and 2 children.

Per *Australien*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Peio Fron, E. H. Melbye, Miss Turner, Messrs. James A. Barr, Rosene Rosenfeldt, Eisevein, F. O. Ranney, Chas. Iburg, S. Nerohouse, Mmes. Carmen, Louver, and Mrs. John Carvadias; for Kobe, Mr. V. Ascoli; for Yokohama, Messrs. Franck Robertson and Ebrahim Abdoolrasool.

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